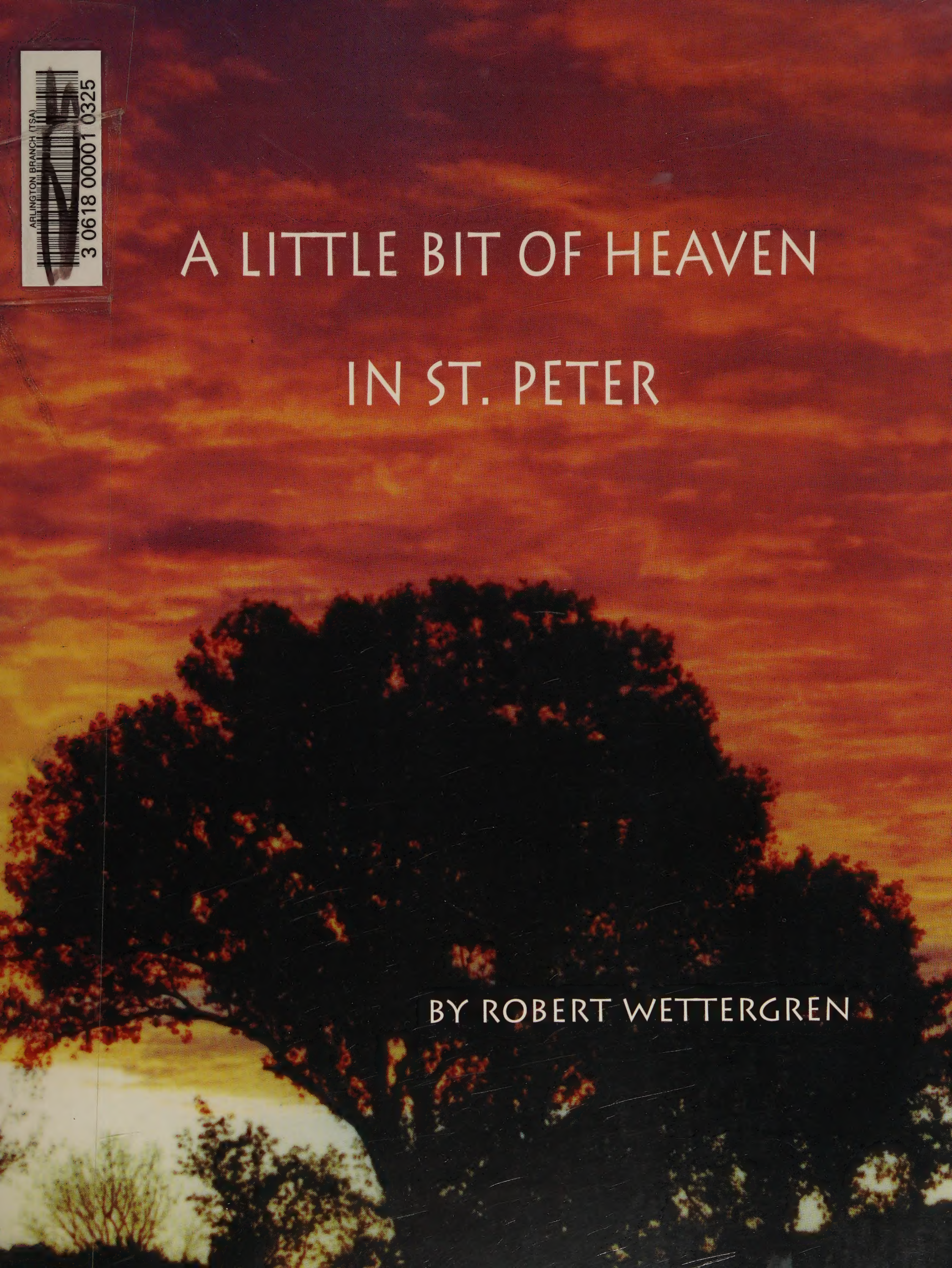


ARLINGTON BRANCH (TSA)
3 0618 00001 0325

A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN IN ST. PETER

BY ROBERT WETTERGREN

Bob Wettergren

Arlington Public Library
321 West Main Street
Arlington, MN 55307
507-964-2490

A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN

IN

ST. PETER

ROBERT WETTERGREN

DISCARD

DISCARD

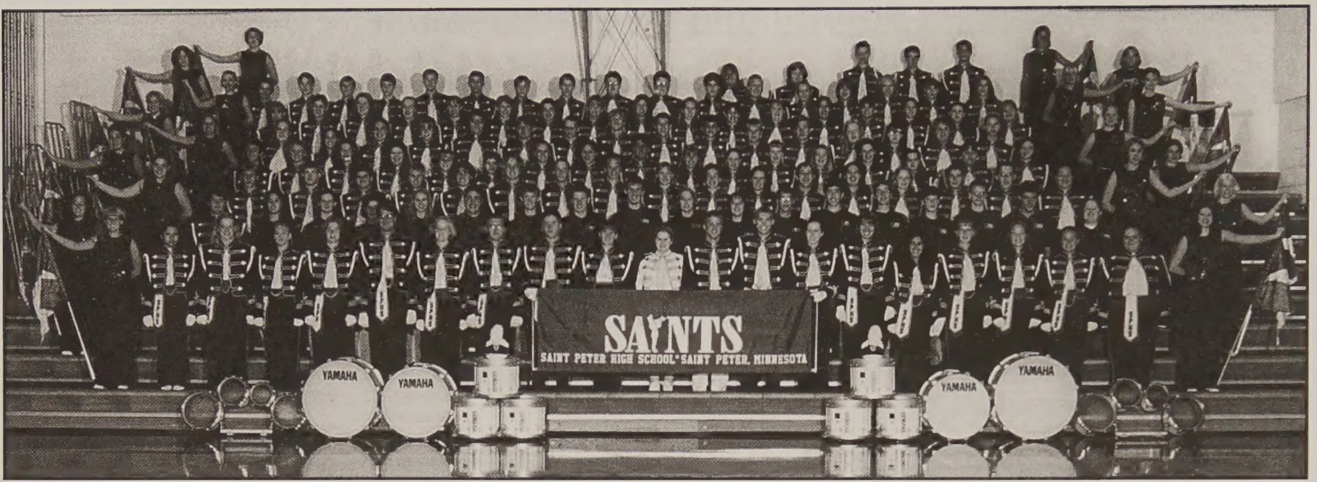
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO:

Clarence and Edna Wettergren

The Robert and Renee Wettergren Family

L-R: Bob, Debbie, Robin, Robert, Wendy, Jan, Renee

and to the
St. Peter High School Music Department


SAINTS
SAINT PETER HIGH SCHOOL • SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
YAMAHA
YAMAHA
YAMAHA
YAMAHA

The St. Peter High School Marching Saints

The St. Peter High School Belcanto Choir

The St. Peter High School Concert Choir

The St. Peter High School Saints Chorale

FORWARD

My book, "A Little Bit of Heaven in St. Peter" consists of 300 stories about businesses, farmers, professional people, institutions and individuals compiled over the last 26 years. Many of the people mentioned have moved, passed away, sold their businesses or are no longer in business. My unaltered stories – originally published in the St. Peter Herald -- go back to the founding of St. Peter by Captain William B. Dodd and his wife, Harriet.

This book is dedicated to my parents, Clarence A. Wettergren and Edna Pell Wettergren, my wife, Renee, and our five children, Wendy Wettergren Larson, Debbie Wettergren Clark, Jan Wettergren Bredeson, Robin Wettergren Bauer and Robert L. Wettergren. It also is dedicated to the St. Peter High School Music Department, where I served as drum major in 1937 and 1938.

I would like to acknowledge several people and references for their assistance in compiling this, including the St. Peter Herald, Mankato Free Press and their staffs for permission to reprint these articles and photos and the St. Peter Herald's Diamond Jubilee issue, put together by editor Edward A. Johnson in 1930. Photographs also are included through the courtesy of David McGuire, the Nicollet County Historical Society, the Minnesota State Historical Society, Connect Business, and the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center.

Compiling this edition wouldn't have been possible without the help of the following individuals, who offered their typing, editing and other skills: Robin Wettergren Bauer, Wendy Wettergren Larson, Norma Jean Fischer, Jesse and Katie Clark, Celine Wettergren, Shari Pell Brostrom, Marie Dranttel, Althea Leonard, Linda Riebesell, Randee Scheffert, Joan Williams, Jeannie Reese, Norma Jensen, Virginia Carr, Ron Arndt, Chris and Julie Gilbert, Jody Sailor Fischenich, John Cross, and Ed Lee.

I also would like to extend my appreciation to the St. Peter High School Music Department for the sale and handling of these books.

And finally, I wish at this time to make a humble apology for whatever important matters I may have missed in "A Little Bit of Heaven in St. Peter." As Alexander Pope, the great English poet, once said, "To err is human, but to forgive is divine."

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/littlebitofheave0000robe

REFERENCES AND CREDITS

St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee issue, 1930.
"History of the Minnesota Valley" by the Rev. Edward McNeill, 1855.
"History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties" by William G. Gresham, 1916.
"History of Old Traverse des Sioux" by General W.C. Brown and Judge Thomas Hughes.
"Remember When" by Josie Stone, curator of the Nicollet County Historical Society and St. Peter librarian from 1895-1906. Today, Nicollet County Historical Society's curator is Jessica Potter.
"Early History of Nicollet County" by Howard Nelson.
"American Bicentennial Revolution" by Fred E. Wetherill, 1976.
"Lower Oshawa" by Amy Turner and Florence Turner Peterson.

Florence Turner Peterson, curator at Gustavus Adolphus College; Dr. Doniver Lund, former chair of the Gustavus history department; Dr. Kevin Byrne, Gustavus history professor; and Sander Olson, former editor of the St. Peter Herald.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion 1860 parish records.
Minutes from the meetings of the board of directors of the Nicollet County Historical Society (members included Henry N. Benson Sr., Josie Stone, Amy Turner, Florence Turner Peterson, J.J. Daun, Hamilton Nelson and Esther Gault).
St. Peter Herald, St. Peter Courier, The Free Press of Mankato, Minneapolis Star Tribune, and St. Paul Pioneer Press articles by Gareth Hiebert (Oliver Towne).

Personal interviews with Lillien Cox Gault; Dr. J.W. Daniels and his daughter, Karen Daniels Peterson; James C. Clark and his son, Charlie Clark; George F. Nutter; Hattie I. Johnson, sister of former Gov. John A. Johnson; William A. Pell, one of the first white boys born in Nicollet County in 1854; and many others.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Minnesota Natural Gas Company 3
The Babcock Company 4
H.W. Komatz Construction Company 5
The St. Peter Creamery 5
ADC Products (Audio Development Co.) 6
The A.H. Hermel Candy & Tobacco Company 7
G.T.O. Enterprises Inc. 8
St. Peter Woolen Mill (Mary Lou's) 9
Banks Of The Area 10
Warning Sheet Metal Shop 12
St. Peter Auto Dealers 13
St. Peter's Soft Water Firms 15
The Ambassador's Club 16
St. Peter State Hospital Complex 17
Northwestern Bell 18
Bolton & Menk Engineering, Inc. 20
St. Peter Lumber Yards 21
Savings And Loan Firms In St. Peter 22
Alumacraft 23
Cargill Seed Company 24
St. Peter School Bus Lines 24
Hendrickson Organ Co., Inc. 26
Snowmobile Industry & Dealers 27
Widen Tool & Stamping, Inc. 28
GinRay Manufacturing Company 29
St. Peter Pre-Schoolers 30
Minnesota Valley Stock Car Racing Association, Inc. 31
St. Peter Tile Company 32
St. Peter Industrial Development Corporation 33
Jamar Industries, Inc. 34
Midwest Electric Products, Inc. 35
Dave's Mobile Home Repair & Manufacturing 36
Norseland General Store 37
Pleasant View Farms 38
Riverbend Asphalt Company 39
Hiniker Company, Inc. 39
Big John's Restaurant And Motel 40
D & B Housing Accessories, Inc. 41
Farmers Elevator Of Traverse 42
The St. Peter Feed Mill 44
St. Peter Herald 45
Hewitt Machine & Manufacturing 47
Holiday House 48
KRBI - Radio 49
Johnson's Locker Plant 50
Miles Lunak Shoe Repair 51

High School Students View Business 52
Minnesota National Guards 52
Nicollet Ag Services 54
Nicollet Farmer's Exchange Company 55
Nicollet Oil Co-op Association 55
Oshawa Elevator 57
Hats Off To The American Farmer 58
The Peavey Company 58
The Wisdom Of Big Brother, III 59
St. Peter Well Co., Inc. 59
Tri-Ag Services Of Norseland 60
Yost Meat, Traverse 61
Zins Hardware & Implement 62
Don's Ace Hardware & Appliance 63
Leonard Brothers Enterprises 64
The St. Peter Baseball Association 66
Schultz Polled Holstein Farm 67
Gustavus Adolphus College 68
Tate's Construction 70
Shoreland Country Club 71
Minnesota School Boards Association 72
St. Peter Community Hospital And Health Care Center 74
George A. Hormel Livestock And Buying Station 75
Grandview Care Center 76
St. Peter Bakeries 78
Lauris Krenik Pork Farm 79
Spiess And Coulter Plumbing And Heating 80
Geldner Construction Company 81
Klein Funeral Home 82
Webster Brothers, Inc. 84
Ed Swartout, Inc. 85
Pehrson Hyline Farm And Pehrson Long View Farm .86
St. Peter Public And Parochial Schools 87
Annexstad's Lake Park Farm 91
St. Peter Barristers 92
Bonnie's 95
Braun's 95
Bunde's Specialty Shop 96
Burch's Shoes 96
St. Peter Cablevision 97
"Selling" City Is Chamber's Job 98
St. Peter's Chiropractors 100
St. Peter Dentists 101
Door Engineering & Manufacturing Company 103
Electric Companies 104
Governors Five Menswear 105
St. Peter Florists And Garden Centers 106
The Compart's Hog Operation 108
Kind Veterinary Clinic 109
Swedish Kontur Imports 110

Nelson Printing Company 112
Nutter's Clothing 113
St. Peter Optometrists 114
Pehrson's Prairie Star Farm 115
Production Credit Association Of St. Peter 116
Seitzers' Holstein Farms 117
Johnson's Timberdale Holsteins 118
Tellijohn Landfill Service, Inc 119
American Legion 121
Nicollet County Veterans Of Foreign Wars 122
Jaycox R. & I. Drainage, Jaycox Pump Company 123
St. Peter Firms Lay Fine Groundwork 124
Ecks Living Center And Homeline Furniture Serve St. Peter 125
The Decorating Center 127
Hawkins Jewelry Is A Gem Of A Business For The City 128
St. Peter Oil Companies Are Still Strong 128
History of Harland's Tire And Auto Center Shows Performance 131
Elbert's Electronics Building Built In Traverse, Circa 1872 132
Love Of Music Turns To Business 134
Dairy Farming With The Annexstads 135
S & K Trucks Serve Three States 136
Brandt's Used Auto Parts 137
Dan's Hardware Hank 138
Bowling In St. Peter - From 1914 To The Present 139
Carpentry And Construction Traditions Continue 141
Carpentry And Construction Date Back to 1853 -
St. Peter Carpenters And Construction Companies 142
Frani's Hallmark And Country Garden 143
Sign Painters 144
St. Peter Post Office: Part 1 145
St. Peter Post Office: Part 2 - Postal Employees 146
Harmes' Woodworking Studio 147
Library Has Had Profound Impact On History Of Local Community 148
Four Firms Meet City's Plumbing Needs 149
Ralph Lindemeier's Business Is Milk On Wheels 152
Unimin, Inc.: Ottawa And Kasota 153
Country Pub Keeps Service, Good Food A Tradition 154
Grannie's Parlour, Cat's Away Are Celebrating Their Anniversaries 154
Bergan's Red Owl And Ron's No Frills (National Tea) 156
Erickson's Food And Value Drug And St. Peter Food Co-op 157
Cleaners Have Served St. Peter A Long Time:
Stensby Cleaners And Nu-Way Cleaners 158
There Were Many Close Shaves: St. Peter Barbershops 160
Looking Over St. Peter Hair Styling Businesses 162
Swedberg's Snyder Drugs 164
Taxidermists Never Run Out Of Stuff To Do 165
Four Seasons Floor Covering 166
Good Food And Service Are Goals for Hardee's, Country Kitchen 167
Fast Food Is Way Of Life In St. Peter 169
Dairy Queen And Sugar 'n Spice Cafe 170

Pizza And Tacos Are Popular In St. Peter .171
Chuck Wagon-Nicollet Cafe-Prairie House .172
Chateau Supper Club-Ginny May Donut Shop-Shoops Saloon & Restaurant .174
St. Peter Has A Pair Of Oriental Restaurants .175
Bars And Liquor Establishments .176
Area Boasts Four Resort, Vacation Spots .179
For Over 100 Years Swenson Families Are Dairy People .180
Cliff, Theresa Run Shanhaska Drummer Antiques .182
Motels, Hotels, Cabins Host St. Peter Visitors .182
Deike Transportation Enters Second Century .184
St. Peter Has Five Public Accounting Companies .185
Home Plate Succeeds Alice And Bill's Cafe .187
St. Peter Cabs: From Buggy To Auto Are Reliable .188
St. Peter Physicians .189
Von Essen Does The Towing In The St. Peter Area .192
Nichols Practices Podiatric Medicine .193
Vetters Go Direct From Farm To Home .193
John Parmeter: Teacher And Tradesman .194
Rolco Manufacturing Produces Toys, Electronic, Medical Components .195
The Milk House .196
Nicollet County Fair .196
Hewitt Farms .198
Servicemaster .198
Citizens' Scholarship Foundation Of America Is Located In St. Peter .199
Farming In The Hanson Family For 100 Years .200
Mitterhauser's Restaurant .201
KGAC Originates In Bjorling Hall At GAC .202
Better Micro Solutions .202
St. Peter Now Has Three Travel Agencies .203
Millards Started First Business In St. Peter In 1974 .205
Leivestads Own Carburetion .206
Allen Runs Central Logging In St. Peter .207
Tulip Tree Building Has A Place In Local History .207
Annexstad Served The St. Peter Area .208
History Of St. Peter Streets .209
Investment Club Notes 25th Year .211
Buildings Hold Retail History .212
"Great White Way" Came To Town In '30 .214

DOWN MEMORY LANE

There's History In Them Thar Railroad Tracks .217
Local Whistles And Bells Mark More Than Time .218
The Sun Always Shines In Traverse .219
Music Groups March Through St. Peter's History .219
Many Recall Ice Harvests At Lake Emily .220
Farewell To Cow Street
  Times Have Changed For St. Peter Creameries .221
The Politics Of Church Pews .223
Creamery Employees Rise To The Top .226
Baseball Fanatics Tour The Majors .228
Major League Baseball Shares 125 Years Of Memories .229

Going Extra Innings On Baseball 230
Teacher Taught Him Meaning Of Respect 231
Memorial Day Talk Stirs Memories 232
Town Has A Jewel In Its Midst 233
St. Peter Loses Fine Citizen 233
124-Year Old Myth Squelched 234
Ambassadors - St. Pat's Day 235
Parsons Will Be Missed 236
Davis Family Earned Honors 236
Lunak's Efforts Win Praise 237
Fond Memories Of Christmas' Past 237
"Mr. St. Peter" Moved On To New Challenges 238
City Of Better Off With SPRTC 240
A Tour Of Front Street Reveals Many Local Landmarks .240
How's Your Third Street Knowledge? 242
Do You Know Your Main Street History? 244
Do You Remember Main Street From The Past? 246
West Of Main Street Has Plenty Of History 248
A Visit With Some Names From The Past 249
Today's Walk Starts On The East Side Of Main Street 252
Embassy Bar Is One Of The Oldest Buildings In St. Peter 253
First National Bank Building Constructed In 1914 255
Today's Walk Takes Us North On Main Street 257
Former Chamber Was Home To Repair Shop And Friendly Cafe 259
Park Row Was Home To Vicker's Garage 261
The North End Of Town Is Today's Stop 263
The North End, Continued 264
St. Julien Street Starts This Week's North End Tour 264
A List Of Who's Who In St. Peter History 265
These Streets Deserve A Salute 266
Meeting Those Who Have Shaped The Future 267
St. Peter Hosted First Football Game In 1895 268
Traveling Back In Time To 1896 269
Wandering Off Memory Lane To Look At The Top Stories Of 1995 272
Remember The Cold Spell Of 1936 273
A Look At Nicollet County Farms In 1909 274
Old Railroad Depot Triggers Memories Lost 276
One-Room Schoolhouse In Traverse 277
As Spring Comes, Thoughts Turn To Green, Grassy Field and Baseball 278
Remembering Harold Overn 279
Great Basketball Teams Abound In History 279
Woman Breaks Tradition In Politics And Hats 281
The Humble Start Of Redevelopment 282
State Capitols And Governors Have St. Peter Connections 283
Baseball: How Many Do You Know? 283
Baseball: How Many Do You Know? (part 2) 285
How Many Baseball Players Do You Know? (answers) 286
Ten Commandments Of Baseball 288
Invitation A Sign St. Paul, St. Peter Brothers Again 288
Mayor Latimer Helps St. Peter Forgive St. Paul 290
Johnson With Wreath For 65 Years 291

Fun Facts From The Police Department .293
St. Peter, Home Of Five Governors And Great Ringmaster, Johnny Herriott .294
A Movie Theater-Is It Just A Dream? .296
St. Peter, Home Of Olympic Trainer Gayle Hanson Olson .297
Lion's Club Celebrates 50 Years .298
The Bases Are Covered .299
Chamber Remembers Early St. Peter Manufacturers .299
St. Peter, Just A Little Bit Of Heaven .300
Chamber Speakers Revisited .301
Boone, Erickson, Lurtsema, And Quilici .302
Chamber Remembers More Illustrious Speakers .303
Jocko, Jeff, Jim, Clark, Angie And Billy Were Chamber Speakers .305
St. Peter Volunteer Fire Pros From 1874 To 1997 .306
More About The St. Peter Fire Department .307
Fire Destroyed A Part Of St. Peter's History .308
Letters .309
Basketball Past And Present .310
Baseball Lore, Then And Now .311
Shriners Bring Love And Laughter To Many .312
Memories Of A Grand Old Creamery .313
Revisiting Governor's Homes .314
Davis-Pell Clan Take The "Windy City" By Storm .315
Third String Catcher Got His Break In The 1940's .316
Bowling Of Today Strikes Memories Of Yesterday .317
Recollections Of Elections Past .318
Remembering A Fine Businessman .319
Holy Cow! St. Peterites Knew Caray .320
Recollections About Old School Buildings .320
First Schools At St. Peter And Traverse Are History Lessons .321
Carl "Chuckie" Schmidt Will Be Missed But Not Forgotten .323
How Did Governor's Homes Fare? .323
Farming, Then And Now .324
Recalling Gustavus Events .325
Letters To The Editor .326
Researching The History Of City Parks .327
Letter To The Editor .328
Youngblom, A Legend In The Community .329
Down Memory Lane .329
Remembering The Old A & W .330
Cornerstone Box To Be Opened .331
St. Peter Hopes To Solve Mystery Of 1926 Cornerstone .333
Bloomquist, A Man Of Honor And Service .334
Letter To The Editor .335
Memories Of Schuck's Oshawa Township Store .336
Dairies Dominated Town In 1930's .337
Gentleman Johnson Will Be Missed .338
Looking Back On City Legends .339
The Beat Of A Different Drummer .340
Saturday Was Shopping Day .341
Sheriff's Department History .342
The History Of Nicollet County Courthouse .342
Timeline Of Significant Events In St. Peter History .344

A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN
IN
ST. PETER

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Minnesota Natural Gas Company

Recent announcement of the possible merger of the Minnesota Natural Gas Company with the Minneapolis Gas Company reminded many St.Peter area residents that the firm, whose first name was the Minnesota Valley Gas Company, is something of a native of St. Peter.

The firm was founded in 1934 by R.E. Crawford, Sr., with its headquarters in St. Peter.

During its first year, the company built gas distribution systems in five communities; St. Peter, Le Sueur, New Prague, Montgomery, and Le Center.

Many St. Peter residents will remember the "Pioneers" of the firm: D.J. Reimers, M.E. (Jay) Stewart, L.R. Smith, Arden Scofield, Elliott Chaudoin, Roy Miller, Bud Haney, Margaret Gillham, Clayton Wolfe, as well as Mr. Crawford.

While the firm was continuing a steady growth, construction distribution systems to the area communities, Minnesota Valley was also establishing itself and its personnel as active participating community residents in the communities it served.

During the heyday of Minnesota amateur baseball, for instance, Dutch Reimers (later to become president of the company) displayed both his interest in baseball and the young men who played the game by giving employment to many local area ballplayers. As a matter of fact, the majority of the players on St. Peter's 1955 State Championship baseball team were employees of the company.

Several of these former ballplayers have remained as longtime, valued employees of Minnesota Natural Gas.

Some who come quickly to mind are Ken Bakken, John Webster, Rich Boys, Howie Luhman, Ernie (Junior) Kramer, Roy Erhorn, Wally Pedersen. Two of these former ballplayers have become division supervisors of the firm - Lyle Albrecht at Shakopee and Curt Knight at Brainerd.

In 1959, the Company embarked on a substantial three year expansion program. When the program was completed, Minnesota Valley's sales of natural gas had doubled from its position prior to the expansion Program and it then served a total of 29,000 customers in 30 Minnesota towns.

In 1961, the firm's headquarters office was moved from St. Peter into a new home office located in St. Louis Park at the inter-section of Highways 12 and 18.

In September of 1964, R.E. Crawford, Sr., was named chairman of the Board and chief executive officer. Reimers, who had held various management positions since the company's founding, was named president and chief administrative officer.

After further expansion into communities through central, western and southern Minnesota, the company name was changed to Minnesota Natural Gas Company in 1966.

It was in that same year that the firm purchased the Dr. M.E. Lenander building, in which a portion had been rented along with parts of neighboring buildings along Minnesota Avenue. After an extensive remodeling job, the building became the firms modern Southern Division Headquarters, which it remains today.

In October of 1969, R.E. Crawford, Jr., who had held various management positions in the firm, had been a resident of St. Peter where he built a home in the relatively new Governor's Heights subdivision. While a resident of St. Peter, he was active in a wide range of civic activities, including a term as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Presently, Minnesota Natural serves 69,000 customers in 80 communities in 33 counties in central and southern Minnesota, and employs 329 people and is responsible to the holders of 660,000 shares of common stock currently outstanding.

It is a prime example of corporate success story in Minnesota which at the same time, it has maintained its interest and involvement in affairs of communities in which it serves.

The Babcock Company

The Babcock Company of Kasota, which mines and fabricates stone products for the construction industry, is one of the pioneer industries of southern Minnesota. It has been in continuous operation by the same family for one hundred and twenty-one years.

The company's history parallels, in many ways, the history of the State of Minnesota.

In the early 1850's Joseph W. Babcock contracted with the federal government to deliver a consignment of mules to the garrison at Fort Snelling as a commission and forwarding agent. In 1853 he was awarded a government contract to deliver mail from St. Paul to Sioux City, Iowa, and intermediate points.

He decided to make what was then known as Kasota Precinct his headquarters for this operation.

One of the conditions of Babcock's mail contract was that he would be permitted to pre-empt a certain amount of land as partial payment for his services. He chose land in the area between Kasota and Lake Washington because of the good stand of timber. Having timber land, he next erected a sawmill on the creek which flowed through Kasota and started selling dimension cut lumber.

In selling the lumber for building purposes, he discovered that there was a demand for stone for foundations, bridges, sidewalks and curbings. He was aware of the outcroppings of stone in the area and he soon turned his talents to the quarrying end fabricating of stone products.

This was the origin of the business which has been carried on to the present day.

Since the days of the founder of the business, it has been handed down through his son, C. W. Babcock, his grandsons, Frank, Fred and Clifford Babcock, his great grandson, Stephen Babcock, and great granddaughter, Mrs. Rollin (Jean) Lander. Thus, the current generation is the fourth to operate the Babcock Company.

In terms of names of others who have served The Babcock Company, other than the family, familiar names include Clarence H. Johnson, secretary and board member for 50 years; the late Frank "Monk" Pitmon, Charles "Chubby" Johnson, Carl "Mike" Rydeen, the late Edwin "Pio" Palmquist, Ray Halvorson and the Maas Family. A second generation Maas, Bob, is currently plant superintendent at the Babcock firm.

Because of the unique coloration found in the stone from the Kasota area it received wide acceptance as a building material throughout the United States and Canada. Because of its warm coloration and also because it was capable of taking a high polish, it was very adaptable for interior finish in buildings of a monumental type, such as the Minnesota State Capitol.

That wide acceptance continues. Currently the company is fabricating stone for two major educational institutions in the Pittsburgh area. Other recent building projects for which the firm furnished stone are the Public Library in Richmond, Virginia; the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company building in St. Paul; the Employment Securities Building in Bismarck, North Dakota; and the largest project, the Philadelphia Museum and Art Center.

The company proved it versatility when, during World War II it closed down its stone operations and converted its facilities to the fabrication of steel products for the war effort. Its contribution of the war effort was such that it received commendation from the federal government for its efforts.

About 1960, noting that there was a trend toward the precast concrete type of building material, the company organized its Precast Concrete Division.

This has developed to such an extent that the company has seen fit to take over the Mankato Stone Company, moving its stone operation to the Mankato plant and concentrating on the precast production at its Kasota facilities.

Some of the larger applications of the precast material include the new Health Sciences Building at the University of Minnesota, the State Office Building at Madison, Wisconsin, the Toy National Bank at Sioux City, Iowa, and the Northbrook Shopping Center at Blaine, north of the Twin Cities.

Stephen Babcock, the current president of the firm, has been active in various service and business organizations in the area, and is generally known for his interest in governmental affairs. He is presently serving as chairman of the Highway 14 Committee of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce and is vice chairman of the Highway 14 Association.

In addition to Babcock, other current officers of the Babcock Company are J. Rollin Lander, corporate vice president; Richard Mosel, vice president of the architectural precast division; Al Simonson, vice president of the natural stone division and Royce Wempen, treasurer. Directors of the firm in this area are C. H. Johnson and Robert Maas, and Carl Rydeen is an honorary director.

H. W. Komatz Construction Company

Henry W. and Florence Komatz, Wisconsin natives from "the land of milk and honey" came to "Gold Country" in the late 1930's to locate in St. Peter where "Hank" (as his friends call him) was a field representative for the Allis-Chalmers Company. After a few years in St. Peter the Komatz's purchased an implement company in Fairmont, Minnesota. However, Henry's foresight for road construction told him to return to St. Peter with Florence, Ann (now Mrs. Len Robock of Washington D.C.) and Tom, to engage in a business and community in which they loved so dearly.

The Komatz Company's initial equipment was a rebuilt cat which Henry overhauled in his spare time while in the implement business. With this meager beginning being built with sweat and shear intestinal fortitude one of the largest Asphalt Companies in the entire Midwest, many thousands of miles in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota remain a testimony of his labors.

To mention some of his largest projects one would have to mention Foss Air Field in South Dakota, and several jobs over one million dollars. The smallest being his good friend A. W. "Ackie" Hallander's drive-way.

During the past 35 years the Komatz Company has brought in employees from many states who have made their homes in St. Peter and become active in the community. The current payroll for 1973 exceeded the $1,800,000 mark. Work done in 1973 was over $7,500,000 with over 200 employees during the peak season. Many of these dollars have found their way up and down the streets of our locality.

Many cities and Industrial Corporations have tried unsuccessfully to induce the Komatz's to locate elsewhere with offers of land, buildings, etc., but Henry not expecting favors from local interest has remained faithful to St. Peter, Gustavus Adolphus College and the area.

Komatz's first two employees were the now deceased: Art Larson and Stanley Hed. Jerry Tardy, now retired, was head mechanic for over 25 years. Twenty-six employees have served the firm for over ten years.

Current officers in addition to Henry, Florence, and Tom are Charlie Regenschied and Lennie Hanson.

Henry acknowledge's a debt of gratitude to long gone friends: Mr. Clare Moll and Mr. L. J. (Bink) Gault, former presidents of the First National and Nicollet County Banks. Henry is presently a director of the latter.

St. Peter and Komatz's have equally benefited because of Komatz's decision to return to the Home of 5 Governors.

The St. Peter Creamery

The St. Peter Creamery and Drying Plant is unique in the fact that it is the only surviving creamery in Nicollet County making butter. The other county plants are the Bernadotte Creamery, milk receiving station owned by Mr. Stan Davis, and the Nicollet Creamery where drying powder is manufactured and Mr. Davis also has an interest.

At one time, 13 creameries existed in the county from the "Willow Lawn Creamery" at Traverse, (built in 1890, now the Yost Meat Plant), to the New Sweden Creamery where Sam Haugdahl manufactured the butter that "crowned" him the World's Best Buttermaker at the World's Exposition in Paris in 1899. Sam won many state and national awards in which samples came from the New Sweden Creamery.

Modern transportation, State and Federal regulations requiring specific equipment, has closed all these landmarks except the St. Peter Creamery and Drying Plant.

Stanley Davis, (his friends called him "Mushie" when captain of the 1936 St. Peter High School Football team because he always wore a muskrat cap) purchased the St. Peter Creamery operation from the late Soren Smidt during World War II in 1943.

The key to Stan's success was his foresight as he went from purchasing farm cream, to the separating of whole milk and later drying milk to powder.

In 1948, Mr. Davis built a 46 X 74 foot addition to the building on the south and installed all new stainless equipment to meet Federal requirements. In 1959, a quarter pound butter wrapping stainless steel machine was purchased to custom wrap for other creameries in addition to his own "Minnesota Valley Brand".

When the St. Peter State Hospital had its own dairy herd, the creamery would pasteurize 2,500 pounds of milk a day, which was used for the consumption by the residents of the institution.

In 1955 a portion of the creamery was enlarged to house the milk drying operation, which manufactured several million pounds of milk and whey per year.

Longtime and faithful employees of the operation include: now retired Inabelle "Tiny" Moss, bookkeeper for over 30 years; Don Lindstrand, Maintenance Superintendent for over 30 years; Loren "Red" Dimmel, plant foreman of the St. Peter Division; and Don Burnett, Manager of the Bernadotte operation.

His son, Mark Edward, a pretty fair country athlete and still playing with the local baseball team, is the manager of the Le Sueur Creamery operation which specializes in cheese. The Le Sueur Creamery, Inc., stockholders include: Alan Cords, Mark and Stan Davis.

The creamery, in a joint venture with French based Bongrain - Gerard, recently brought $80,000 worth of equipment from France to Le Sueur to make the 15,000 Bries (bree) and Comemberts (camonbear) per week, which are sold nation wide. Jean (John) - Claude Burneau is the manager of the Bries and Comemberts operation.

The creamery processes 600,000 pounds of milk, six days a week, which produces 1,250,000 pounds of stirred curd cheddar cheese per month. In four years the sales jumped from $2,000,000 to $13,000,000 annually. The Davis interest has 70 employees in their plants, which are the largest privately owned plants in Minnesota.

Stan Davis has been active in community and national organizations. He is presently a member of the Nicollet County Agricultural Society and a Director of the First National Bank.

Mr. Davis owes his training and success to the late Harvey Parsons of the Norseland Creamery, from whom he gained his apprenticeship, and Dr. Sam Coulter, Professor of the University of Minnesota Farm School.

ADC Products (Audio Development Co.)

ADC Products, now a division of the Magnetic Controls Corporation, was known as Donlen Manufacturing when incorporated in February, 1955. The name was a contraction of the first name of Donald Gustafson and the last name of Walt Lehnert, the originators of the firm.

The story of the firm's beginnings in St. Peter is one of the "Cinderella" stories of outstate industrial development that mark the movement of industries out of metropolitan areas and into rural areas.

It is also the story of successful development of an industry, almost from scratch, in a smaller community which displayed its willingness to help an industry grow. And it was done in the face of competition among all communities seeking to increase their tax base and employment rolls by seeking new industry.

The ADC story starts when Don Gustafson and Walt Lehnert, while driving through St. Peter, stopped at the First National Bank to inquire about the community's attitude toward industry and the possibilities for locating the Donlen Firm in the valley. They spoke with the late Claire Moll, President of the First National Bank, who then contacted W.A. (Bill) Francis, owner of Bill's Ace Hardware Store.

As the story developed, Francis became so enthusiastic about the possibilities that he personally issued a check for $10,000 for a down payment to the Land O' Lakes firm which then owned the old Engesser Brewery on South Front Street.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called at the "Cookie Jar" meeting room to form a corporation to complete the real estate transaction involving the old brewery. It is said that Francis and Sheldon Abrahamson, then the Vice President of the First National Bank, spent nearly every Sunday afternoon during the summer months of 1955 meeting with Mr. Gustafson to get the wheels turning prior to the opening of the plant for manufacturing.

Les Peterson, a Nicollet County native and well-known St. Peterite, was hired as manager along with Rosella Palmquist (still with the company) and two other women employees, who produced two conductor telephone jacks the first day of work in February, 1955.

Since then the firm has expanded its production into jacks parts, patch cords, terminal blocks, transformers and into missile electronic components and various radio parts which are used around the world.

The business first expanded into a large garage building across the street from the brewery building.

In 1964 -1965 the newly formed St. Peter Development Corporation picked up the ball when the former St. Peter Industries Organization disbanded. The corporation secured financing and made arrangements with the City of St. Peter for property in what is now the Swift Industrial Park area for ADC's first building project. Three additions have been made since with the help of the Development Corporation, the Small Business Administration, the City and also with the cooperation of the two St. Peter banks.

One of the guiding forces behind the Development Corporation's involvement with ADC's expansion was Z.S. (Sam) Gault, President of the Nicollet County Bank and also President of the Development Corporation during ADC's rapid growth in St. Peter.

ADC is presently embarked on another major expansion in the City. The firm is requesting the City of St. Peter to enter into the sale of the former Northland Ski building of Larson Industries in the Industrial Park. Plans call for ADC to manufacture power condition equipment, battery chargers, stand-by electrical units and ventilating systems in the building.

Ted Olson, director of operations for the company here, has indicated the firm intends to employ approximately 100 people in the new operation. That would bring the total ADC payroll to more than 350 people. This compares with the original manager and three women employed less than twenty years ago.

During the past year, the ADC payroll for 228 hourly paid employees was $117,000. This does not include administration.

Mr. Olson said also that the firm has 47 employees who have given more than fifteen years of service to ADC Products. Some of the long time employees include Rosella Palmquist, Dale Larson, Lewis Straka, G. (Spud) Hillesheim, Dick Baker, Elsie Severson, Pearl Moline, Fillmore Haack and W. Zabel.

St. Peter and surrounding communities have benefited greatly because two men from Minneapolis were impressed by our Minnesota River Valley and liked what they saw in the people of the St. Peter area.

The A. H. Hermel Candy & Tobacco Company

The A. H. Hermel Candy and Tobacco Company began in the basement of the Hermel home located at 716 North Minnesota. As a milk delivery boy to the Hermel house I was rewarded faithfully with a Salted Nut Roll by the late Adolph Hermel who was always generous to the youngsters.

Prior to entering the candy and tobacco business, Adolph was a farmer, a threshing machine owner and operator, a house-to-house shoe salesman, a tailor and the operator of the Swan Lake pavilion where many of the old-timers danced to the tunes of Lawrence Welk, who was making his debut in the early 30's. In fact, I have heard of so many people dancing to Welk that I doubt if a convention hall in Atlantic City could accommodate them all.

In 1937 the Hermel Company became a distributor for the Potosi Beer Company of Potosi, Wisconsin. The late Jim Boys (Adolph's son-in-law) and Art Notebloom were the beer sales representatives. The company discontinued the beer business in 1946 when the Hermel's took on a full line of candy and tobacco products and entered the vending machine field. The company now markets all nationally advertised candy and a complete line of tobacco including franchises on more nationally advertised cigars than any wholesaler in the state of Minnesota.

Howard and Cliff Hermel, having been associated with the company since its conception, bought an interest in the company in 1950. The company expanded its business in 1951 by purchasing the Brockmeyer Candy Company of Mankato, and the firm grew to the extent that the warehouse quarters were doubled in 1963 at the St. Peter location.

In 1968 the Hermel's again expanded their business with the purchase of the E.B. Crabtree Company of Mankato and operated it as a branch under the name of Hermel Company of Mankato. When Mr. A. H. Hermel passed away in 1962, Cliff and Howard became the owners until 1969 when Howard became sole owner by purchasing Cliff's interest.

The company now serves the area with a full line of vending machines which includes not only candy and tobacco but cold drinks, soups, cold food, snacks and recently the office coffee service.

In 1970 the Hermel Company constructed a new plant on Highway 22, eight miles south of St. Peter with the capacity of 16,800 square feet which employs 33 people from the St. Peter area. Long-time employees of the firm in addition to Howard and wife Myra are Mrs. Harriet Duffus; Assistant General Manager, Jim Bolstad; and Art Youngerberg who have 25 years of service to the firm. Darold Habeck, Vice-President, has been with the, Hermel Company since 1957. Ruth Frey, Office Manager, also from St.Peter began in 1963 while Julie Spoors is foreman of the ordering department. The third generation of Hermel's is represented by sons John, Sales Representative, and David, Vending Manager.

Howard is very active both in trade organizations and in the community. The highlight of Howard's second term as President of the Minnesota Candy and Tobacco Distributor Association was in 1960 when Joe Robbie, owner of Super Bowl Champions Miami Dolphins, was hired as Executive Secretary of the Association, and formulated the Unfair Cigarette Sales Act. The bill was sponsored by ex-Senator Val Imm of Mankato, and became an active law that has been tested in court. In regard to the slogan "Cigarettes Don't Pay Taxes, People Do", Howard commented that $1.80 tax is paid on every carton or $20 per pack. Also a 20% state tax is collected by the wholesaler on cigars and tobacco, thus making the wholesalers one of, the better tax collectors in the, State of Minnesota with whom the wholesalers having an excellent rapport. Howard, an instrument-rated pilot, uses his plane for commuting to suppliers and wholesalers to transact business not only state-wide but nation-wide.

In addition to having held various offices in the trade Howard is a Director of the Nicollet County Bank, a past president of the St. Peter Lions Club and is presently a cabinet member of the 5 M S Lions International. He is also a member of the American Legion William R. Witty Post Number 37 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Hermel family has been one of the leading sponsors of community activities from many athletic teams to the Drum and Bugle Corps which has gained prominence throughout the Midwest under direction of Cliff Hermel.

St. Peter and the Hermel's can be equally proud that Adolph Hermel decided on this area where the business and its service to the community have grown every year.

G.T.O. Enterprises Inc.

G.T.O. Enterprises, Inc. is located at 101 West Pine Street in St. Peter. The name is unique because it has a dual meaning. The first meaning constitutes the initial of the Oscar Helling family. "G" stands for wife, Gayle, Secretary and Treasurer of the Enterprises; "T" for son Tracy; "O" for Oscar, the founder and president; and the "I" in Incorporated stands for daughter, Ingrid. Oscar's mother-in-law, Mrs. Jack Habinger of Mankato, reminds Oscar of the second meaning of G.T.O., which is the name of the famous England Auto Race.

Oscar was born in Hanska, Minnesota. He graduated from Mankato High and Mankato State College. Upon graduation he was employed by A.D.C. Products, where he learned his apprenticeship under the watchful eye of Les Peterson, then the Manager of the Company. It is interesting to note that after ten years at Midwest Electric, Oscar returned to the A.D.C. garage where he first started his career.

Prior to the founding of G.T.O., Oscar was employed by his father-in-law, Jack Habinger, the founder and owner of Midwest Electric, as head buyer. He was involved in management during the eight years expansion program for the firm, until it was sold to General Electric.

On December 22, 1970, the first custom socket insert was manufactured in the basement of the Helling home near St. Peter, thus the beginning of G.T.O. Enterprises, Inc.

The company purchased the present 8,400 square foot building in 1972, where it manufactures ten different model electrical power converters and the rebuilding of solenoids. These products are sold and distributed throughout the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, Virgin Islands, and the Hawaiian Islands.

The firm, with a payroll of $130,000 and twelve employees from the St. Peter Area, will be increasing the capacity of the present building by 4,000 square feet and eight employees. The old Engesser Brewery building across the street is used for storing raw materials. G.T.O. has developed two new products which have added to the growth of the company, increasing sales above expectations at the three-fourths of a million mark.

G.T.O. is proud of the dedicated employees who are all from this area. Barb Van Guilder and Chris Gens have been with the firm since locating in St. Peter; Abe Alfutis is General Manager; Joe Emmel, a Company Representative has been working the Alaska to New Orleans Territory and will be in charge of new product development, building and maintenance.

Since Oscar is in an automotive related field, it is only natural that he belongs to the Classic Car Buff Club and owns as his pride and glory, a 1959 Rolls Royce "Silver Cloud I", a 1947 Rolls Royce "Silver Wright" limousine and a 1963 Studebaker Avanti. The Rolls Royce, by the way, is the official car of the Royal Family of England and Oscar is one of a few people in the Midwest that owns two of these Classic cars.

Oscar had the honor of being the Head Judge for the Grand Classic Car Club of America (Upper Midwest) held recently in Alexandria, Minnesota. The Hellings spend their leisure time visiting his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Habinger in Florida, by deep sea fishing in the Keys. Oscar has enjoyed fishing and hunting in Alaska, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Hawaii.

As for the future, Oscar stated, "With the growth of G.T.O. Enterprises, Inc., through the help of dedicated employees and support of the community, the entire area will benefit."

St. Peter is fortunate to have creative and enterprising people such as Oscar, who are natural assets to our community.

St. Peter Woolen Mill (Mary Lou's)

St. Peter Woolen Mills (Mary Lue's), located at 101 W. Broadway, is the oldest industry in the St. Peter Area.

The first building occupied by the mill was said to have been erected on the banks of the Minnesota River on North Front Street where “Nooky” Anderson's repair shop now stands, and across the street from Captain Dodd's (the founder of St. Peter) house.

In 1867, Front Street was a mere cow path when the operation of the mill started. Ownership of the mill changed hands many times until 1880 when Helen Bornemann’s uncle took over the operation and continued to process wool for the sheep ranchers of Le Sueur end Nicollet Counties, who raised about 10,000 sheep.

The Brinker's came into the picture in the early 1900’s when Chuck Brinker’s grandfather purchased the business. Today Chuck’s family is the fourth generation of Brinker's in the woolen industry.

Many people, for sentimental reasons, bring quilts that have been in the family for generations to the mill for recarding, washing and processing and they can be rest assured they return with the same materials.

As late as 1945 Chuck’s mother and father washed and carded the wool and spun the material into yarn. Blankets, underwear, and socks were manufactured in the mill also.

Grandfather Brinker operated with an 1824 model machine while Chuck’s father used an 1865 model and Chuck and his son Joel worked with a 1900 model. Some of the parts of the older machines are still in use.

During World War II part of the mill was used for the carding of flax straw, making hemp for rope used by the military.

The Brinker family not only has a long history, but has expanded in many directions. In 1965, the family entered the retail-yarn venture called “Mary Lue’s” named after Chuck’s wife. The capital outlay was a mere $200. The past year the company's sales drew to approximately a quarter of a million dollars which included sales of looms, sewing machines and lingerie fitting.

Mary Lue specializes in mastectomy fittings which has become a specialty in itself and at the same time promotes the art of crocheting which gained a new interest the past few years end is popular along with needle point of place mats, tapestries and the like.

Sewing machines is another venture entered into by the Brinker Family. Chuck not only sells them, but also speaks to the children at the schools concerning the care and servicing of the machines.

The firm purchases yarn and materials from 150 to 200 major suppliers. Tile Spinnern Yarn (a Swiss Yarn Company) has a branch office in the United States. Mary Lue’s is known to have the largest yarn selection from Minnesota to New Orleans.

We learned that Donna Brinker-Seitzer and her husband John recently returned from Wales where they toured the Brynker Woolen Mills and found it in many ways similar to the Brinker Woolen Mills in St. Peter, which is the largest custom wool operation in the entire Midwest with branch stores in South Minneapolis, Hutchinson and New Ulm.

The operation of the Brinker Enterprises is cared for by the Brinker Family and six additional employees. The firm is in the midst of an expansion program and when complete will have 14,000 square feet of floor space.

People who are acquainted with Chuck have, no doubt, heard him as a soloist at weddings, funerals, lodges or conventions where he has gained on outstanding reputation. He apparently acquired this talent from his mother who also is a gifted singer.

The Brinker's credit their success to the positive application of Christian principles. They are happy to be located near the Minnesota River - Levee Park and have neighbors such as the Woehler’s, Bornemann’s, and Davis’s.

Chuck feels that St. Peter is adequately served by the financial institutions and media. He firmly believes that with continued effort on everyone's part the St. Peter area will continue to grow and prosper.

Banks of the Area

The banking institutions and their Presidents in the St. Peter Area have a history as interesting as the goldsmiths (bankers in England), who charged their customers for protecting their money.

First National Bank of St. Peter

The first bank in St. Peter dates back to pre-civil war days. A wealthy Easterner by the name of Edgerton joined Smith and Donahower to start what is now known as the First National Bank of St. Peter. This Bank remained in private ownership until 1871 when stock was issued to the tune of $50,000, thus a National Bank was chartered. The former owners were awarded $3,000 for their sacrifice.

Officers elected the same year were as follows: Schimmel, President; Paul, Vice-President; F.A. Donahower, Cashier, served as Chief Officer until 1914 and was President from 1889 to 1914.

In 1914, upon the retirement of Donahower, C.A. Benson became the third President and F.A. Donahower's son (with the same name) severed relations with the bank. Donahower's son had a habit of using his desk drawer for a bar and would hoist a few libations during the day. My neighbor lady told me some years ago, when I lived in the Donahower house, that Fred would be habitually late for supper and about "three sheets to the wind" when he arrived home. It is needless to say, that not only words were exchanged, but Mrs. Donahower was a pretty good shot with her shoes.

The same year when the Donahower's left the bank, a new $35,000 Bedford stone bank was built. This building was purchased by Bob Gannon for a cafe when the bank moved into their new quarters.

Sheldon (Sam) Abrabamson, the fifth president, followed the success of the late Claire Moll. Moll started as a janitor and me up through the ranks to head the institution. Sam is the third generation of Abrahamson's from the New Sweden area. e moved to St. Peter with his parents when his father became the Judge of Probate (27 years prior to Judge Henry N. enson's regime).

The present Officers and Directors are: B.F. Bloomquist, Officer and Director; S.A. Abrahamson, Officer and Director; H. Prust, Officer and Director: 8.C. Johnson, Officer and Director; O.P. Johnson, Officer; J.E. Bresnahan, Officer; D.E. arson, Officer; Dr. G.R. Kind, Director; W.C. Pell, Director; M.R. Wenner, Director; R.G. Warning, Director; and S.M. Davis, irector.

icollet County Bank

The Nicollet County Bank was established by E.R. Moore and H.L. Stark in 1873. The first officers were Moore, Stark and hleuder, (C.S. Strathern's uncle).

Taxes were common in those days also, as each check required a 2 cents tax stamp. In 1887, a red brick bank was built n Minnesota Avenue and Nassau Street, and was used until the bank moved to Third Street. The building is presently used y the St. Peter Savings & Loan and Hawkin's Jewelry Store.

Z.S. (Sam) Gault, now President, is the third generation of Gaults affiliated with the Institution. The Gault family dates ack to Traverse Des Sioux days before the founding of St. Peter. Grandpa Gault was the Register of Deeds and Treasurer of e County of Nicollet before affiliating with the bank. L.J. (Bink) was attorney by profession and was Secretary to ongressman C.R. Davis in the Nation's Capitol for many years before returning to St. Peter to become Postmaster. In the last art of the 1920's, L.J. became affiliated with the bank, succeeding Stark as President, until relinquishing the office to his son, am, in the late 1950's. L.J. (Bink) proudly stated to me, "I am sure Sam will be a better banker than I ever hoped to be." oth Sams have carried out the confidence in their predecessors by building new banks (eight years ago) on Third and assau streets.

Officers and Directors of the Nicollet CountV Bank are as follows: Z.S. Gault, Officer and Director; C.G. Schroepfer, fficer and Director; H.C. Filler, Officer and Director; B.F Hoffmann, Officer; L.L. Nelson, Officer; T.S. Wyatt, Officer; F.G. abcock, Director; A. Burg, Director; H.A. Hermel, Director; E.M. Gault, Director; W.M. Gustafson, Director; H.W. Komatz, irector; R.P. Swedberg, Director; and R.W. Swenson, Director.

While the two local banks survived panics, depressions, bank holidays and other challenges the third bank, Citizen's tate Bank, bit the dust after heavily investing in Montana land and closed in 1926. The bank operated in the building now sed by the Swedish Kontur Shop. The late Bill Ritt stated that on December 8, 1932, (the Depression years) not one ustomer entered his place of business, even though it was the Christmas season. Another example is that salaries at ustavus Adolphus College were cut by 25%.

icollet State Bank

The Nicollet State Bank was established in 1903 to serve the people of the rich farm land. It was organized by Henry nter, John C. Burns, Ed H. Olson, August Stolt, John C. Zins, Martin J. Frey, J.P. Ritz and Ed C. Johannes. H.C. Henderson as the first President, Ed H. Olson was the first Vice-President and William F. Strege was the first cashier.

In 1903, an impressive neat brick building was erected which still serves the area. Charles B. Poncin, President, comes om a family that settled in the area in 1855 on a farm now operated by brother, Sid, and nephew, Herb. Charles is on his 5th year with the bank, has served as Mayor and is presently on the Nicollet County Agricultural Society Board.

Other Officers at present are as follows: M.H. Bode, Cashier, has been with the bank for 27 years; Robert Wilking, ssistant Cashier; L.H. Zins, Vice-President; and George Zins.

The banks resources went from $678,000 in 1940 to $7,800,000 in 1974.

eople's State Bank

The First State Bank of Cleveland was organized in 1902 by H.H. Flowers, Herman Zimmerman, W.O. Shuey, Lon and on Diller. The bank served the people in Le Sueur County until it was reorganized in 1931 with George Gruber, the resident and Director; and Carl Wolf, the Cashier and in insurance.

Other Directors were as follows: Adolph Rohlfing, Herman Zimmerman, Charles Cheable, and Carl Wendelschafer.

Charles Meislahm succeeded Gruber as President in 1934 and continued until Howard Wollam left Purina Feeds to become President. Upon the retirement of Wollam, Lowen Richter became the President. The bank has continued the growth and success which Wollam enjoyed.

The banks name was changed to People's State Bank of Cleveland in 1947.

The present officers and directors are as follows: Lowen Richter, Officer and Director; Rita Queen, Officer; Mary Reintges, officer; Tom Lassonde, Officer; Robert Rohlfing, Director; Dale Lloyd, Director; John W. Kluntz, Director; Mrs. Carl Wendelschafer, Director; and Malcolm MacKenzie, Director.

In the last century, new bank buildings have been built, computers introduced and people have come and gone. The banks will never be the same without the brass spittoons and the old time teller bird cages!!

Warning Sheet Metal Shop ✍

The Warning name and the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department are synonymous in the annuals of the history of St. Peter. Charlie Warning, founder of the Warning Sheet Metal Shop, gained his apprenticeship under the watchful eyes of Charlie Feldman and the Woehler Brothers, Ed and George, who were considered masters of the trade.

In 1920, Charlie decided to go into business for himself. He opened a shop, which not only did sheet metal work, but repaired radiators, did roofing, installed furnaces and oil burners, and in later years, took on the installation of air conditioners. Roy and Earl (Peanuts), who had been working with their father, assumed the management of the business at the time of his death.

An interesting statistic is that 90% of the homes in St. Peter have furnaces installed by Warning's. Many of the larger buildings on the campus at Gustavus Adolphus College, A.D.C., and elsewhere have been roofed by Warning's.

Roy's sons, Ken (Butch) and Steve, are the 3rd generation of Warnings now in the business. Earl's son, Bernie, is an air conditioning engineer for Admiral in Galesburg, Illinois.

In terms of service, Roy has 41 years; Earl - 39 years; employee Joe Volk - 34 years; and sons, Ken and Steve–15 years and 10 years respectively. The Warning firm has nearly equaled work for the above years with volunteer-years to the St. Peter Fire Department. Father Charlie, Roy (15 years as Chief), Earl, and Joe Volk, have a combined total of over 125 years as volunteers.

Roy is presently director of the First National Bank, in addition to having served on the board of the St. Peter Savings & Loan Co., from 1949 to 1972, with the last 8 years as president.

Warning Sheet Metal is one of only a few firms that can boast three generations of service to the community.

The St. Peter Area Industries are stable despite material shortages and tight money.

The chamber manager and Jim Dahmen region 8 and 9 director from the Minnesota - Department of Economic Development, surveyed thirteen area industries. Comments on those visited:

A.D.C. Manufacturing - Ted Olson, Manager

The firm recently purchased the Larson Building, which is now used for storage and experimentation.

Alumacraft -Dave Benbow, Manager

The Company recently purchased additional land for storing boats and canoes. They recently acquired a company in Arkdelphia, Arkansas.

Babcock Stone Co.- Rolling Lander, President

Business is steady with a year's work in store for 70 employees. No lay-offs are anticipated.

Cargill Seed Co. - Ted Langhoff, Manager

Ted has been with Cargill 34 years, starting with the Nicollet County Seed Company until acquired by Cargill. Business is steady. Good employees.

.T.O. Enterprises - Oscar Helling, President

Business is steady. Expansion is in the planning stages with several new products being added.

opher State Silica Sand (Ottawa) - Leon Hoffman, Manager

$380,000 is to be invested in enlarging the plant facilities. Thirty-four grades of silica sand are shipped world-wide.

ewitt Manufacturing (Nicollet) - Larry Hewitt, Prop.

A new building was recently completed. Welders are trained for their jobs.

iniker Tractor Cab Co.- Mike Lundin, Manager

They are building additional manufacturing space. Many students from Mankato State are employed there on the three hifts.

omatz Construction, Inc. - H.W. Komatz, President

The industry has an 8 million dollar volume--the largest in history. Profits are down because of the high cost of material. 975 is expected to be the same as 1974. Most of their work is completed.

idwest Electric - Paul Way, Manager

The operation is owned by General Electric and is presently operating with one shift. They expect a great future for cilities.

elby Manufacturing (Nicollet) - Ray Sandhofner, Manager

There being a shortage of steel, they are sub-contracting for another firm. Welders are trained on the Job.

iden Tool and Stamping, Inc.- Don Wilde & LeRoy Selden, Props.

The operation is in what was formerly the Beam Furniture Building. Wilde and Selden, former employees of Midwest ectric, make stampings. They expect to enlarge as business demands.

ear-Round Cab - Ken Graff, Vice President of Finance

Business is steady. Two shifts are employed to make tractor cabs.

Other industries will be visited before the first of the year and a report will be forthcoming.

t. Peter Auto Dealers

.B. Seitzer and Company

H.B. Seitzer and Company, one of the oldest Ford franchises in the state of Minnesota, dates back to the World War I ays when the firm sold other makes of automobiles. In 1915, the company dropped all other makes, and restricted their anchise to Fords.

H.B. had the distinction of becoming acquainted with the other Henry, by the name of Ford, at a meeting in St. Paul, hen Model-T's were still in their prime.

Seitzer and Company sold the unbelievable number of 1,550 Model-T Fords in eleven years. Prior to 1930, they had les of 280 Model-A's, in addition to 85 Fordson tractors, Wood Brother's threshing machines, and many other lines of achinery.

The company moved the implement business to the present location in 1949, while the garage located at new quarters n South Front Street in 1960.

The Seitzer Company is the oldest continuous business in one family in St. Peter to date. In 1972, son, Dick and andson, Gregg, took over the firm, while son, Mark, acquired the implement business and Rambler agency.

H.B. and brother-in-law "Mr. Baseball", Russ Boys, who affiliated with the company in 1921, not only took horses as ade-ins, but were even known to have acquired an elephant from the Engesser Circus in one of their deals.

H.B., a lover of music, recalls the days when the Seitzer Orchestra would travel by train from Oshawa to Nicollet and ack for an engagement many people remember when H.B.'s daughter, Marge, played the piano with great enthusiasm ajnd exorbitant energy. H.B. was a member of Gaylord's "Over-Sixty" band that played at the New York World's Fair and many other larger cities in the United States.

Henry did his civic duty by serving on the city council for 32 years, the longest of any alderman in history. Also, he has given 37 years as a director of the First National Bank Board, serving many of these years as chairman. Other organizations he gave his time to were the St. Peter Savings and Loan and the School Board.

Long time employees at the garage and implement company are Elger Mathwig, Merle Schroeder, Johnny Norman, Loren Menk, and Johnny McCabe.

Motor Inn Chevrolet

The Motor Inn Chevrolet was organized November 15, 1948, by the F.B. Clements Co. on a Park Row location. The skating rink property on 3rd and Mulberry was acquired from the City of St. Peter, where a new garage was built.

The late Curt Leverson, formerly the proprietor of the Leverson Market, who also had a professional orchestra, became the first manager of the firm. Recent managers were Nestor Nelson, the late Al Dudek and presently Milt (Tony) Nielsen.

Tony was Milt's professional nick-name during his days with the Cleveland Indians Professional Baseball Team of the American League. Milt, a former Chamber Board President and a present director, started his athletic career at Lake Benton, Minnesota, the home of our good friend and former chamber manager, the late Ray Blegen.

Long time employees of the firm are Frank (Rudy) Lindberg and Earl Hanson (sales managers), Bobby Genelin (service manager), Charles Meyer (parts manager), and Larry Fitch (office manager), who have a combined service of over 50 years with the company.

Officers of the dual franchise that sells Chevy cars and trucks, and Oldsmobiles, and employs 20 people are R. Lanse, president; C.R. Butler, vice-president; and Milt Nielsen, manager.

Randolph Buick

Randolph Buick was started by the late Wilbur E. Doty, who claimed to have had the first car in Nicollet County. The garage is located in a building which was formerly Earl Lomis's grandfather's livery stable, built over 100 years ago. The St. Peter Tribune stated that in 1888, the late Bill Pell, proprietor of the stable, built an addition to the building, extending it to the alley. This basic structure still stands, only remodeled to fit today's needs.

The Miller brothers, Earl and Lawrence (Lunch), and Joe Olson purchased the Doty interest after having worked for H.B. Seitzer. Upon the death of Lunch Miller, Earl sold to the late Gene Ney. Earl's brother, Ralph (Rowdy), often wonders what happened to the motto "When better cars are built, Buick will build them!"

Jim Randolph leased the Randolph Body shop to John Malmborg and purchased the Buick business two years prior to the death of Gene Ney. Jim, a member of the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department, inherited this civic duty from his father, Bob, who served many years as chief of the LeSueur Fire Department.

Lager Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.

The Lager Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc. made their first appearance on Broadway (St. Peter, Minnesota) in the Walton Pell building in 1965, before moving to their new location on North Minnesota.

Lager's, having outgrown their present quarters, acquired the Ewert and Southern Valley Coop. property, which resulted in having the dubious honor of becoming the third largest real estate property tax payer in the City.

Among the 23 present employees at Lager's are three long time employees; Wayne Wendell, Gary Meyer, and Curt Leonard.

Jerry, past president of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce and presently a director, and along with brother Bill, are Ambassadors of the Chamber. They have received more national newspaper, radio, and T.V. coverage at the Super Bowl VIII game than Mary Jean and Carl Eller. The picture of the Lagers, with their Viking head dresses with horns turned down (symbol of defeat) and dejected facial expressions drew world-wide attention.

Bill, Jerry, and father, Fred have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy the athletic feats of Jerry's sons, Rick and Kipp in years to come. "THE ST. PETER AUTO DEALERS ASSOCIATION IS A CORNERSTONE TO PROGRESS."

t. Peter's Soft Water Firms

ayer Soft Water Service

In the fall of 1945 Ken Mayer, with his wife Grace and their five children, decided to leave the employment of 23 years ith Standard Oil in the Arrowhead Country for the "Land of Milk and Honey", St. Peter.

That October, Ken, with his brother, Leo, obtained the Culligan franchise in St. Peter and began the Mayer Soft Water ervice. Leo had already gained considerable experience in the industry at Mankato, where he and Merle Sophie had the fth franchise issued in the U.S. by the Culligan Soft Water Company. Upon Leo's selling his Mankato interest, the St. Peter rm gained Le Sueur and Nicollet Counties, excepting North Mankato, and expanded into Le Sueur, Le Center, Montgomery, ew Prague. Cleveland, Nicollet, Kasota, Courtland, Henderson, and rural St. Peter.

This company was first located at 209 W. Nassau (where Attorney Olcott practices) and moved to their new location at 03 S. Front Street, adjacent to the Levee Park and municipal building. The firm's payroll is approximately $75,000, with a 175,000 volume and four trucks operating out of the St. Peter plant.

One of the changes in nearly 30 years of business has been from nearly all portable rentals to 70% home owned and 0% automatic rentals. The company is one of the largest purchasers of salt in the area with 15,000–100 pound bags urchased yearly for resale. The firm uses 180-200 ton of bulk salt a year for portable units.

Officers and employees are: Ken Mayer, president; Pat Mayer, vice-president; Mrs. Joel Moline, office manager; Mrs. Earl rickson, assistant office manager; Ken Zumhof, sales manager; Chuck Hawkes, installation and service manager; Tim Pesek nd Ed Prom, routemen.

Ken and his family are very active in the community as well as in his business at the state and national levels. Ken is a ast president of the Northwest Association of Soft Water Operators of the State of Minnesota and served four years on the ational Association of Soft Water Operators Board. He has also been past president of the Rotary Club and the Shoreland ountry Club, former director of the Chamber of Commerce, and a past Worthy Grand Knight of the St. Peter Knights of olumbus Council #1509.

Ken states that he has been blessed with the friendship of wonderful people in the entire area, but his greatest thrill is is supremacy over his golfing and card playing buddies, Paul J. Bell and Dr. J.G. Sheehan.

ri-County Soft Water Conditioning Inc.

Ed and Elsie Ranzau founded the Tri-County Soft Water Conditioning, Inc. firm in 1958 after years of experience in the oultry and egg business in Carver County. Ed gained his appren-ticeship in the soft water business in Hutchinson, where e found the Tri-County firm. He sold the company prior to moving to St. Peter and opened the Highlander Laundry in arwey Court. Ed first operated the soft water business out of the laundry until he sold the laundry business in 1971 to Pat nd Rita Hix.

The firm's business expanded to the point where a new building (22 feet by 54 feet) was built on South Minnesota venue to house the growing business.

Ed also has seen a change in the industry from portable rentals to all automatic, either rentals or outright purchases. To ate, 80% of their sales are softeners purchased outright. Salt is an important chemical that has increased as much in the past x months as in the entire previous three years. Salt sales in the City are by automatic refill or by call, while out of town eliveries are every three months.

Ed is ably assisted by Steve Nygard, the installation and serviceman, and Lu McConville, office manager.

Ed enjoys dealing with people from Londsdale, New Ulm, Mankato, and the St. Peter Area, which the company serves.

Ed's aim in life is to leave a growing building and business for someone to enjoy the some opportunity that he has been ranted.

Upon retirement, Ed and Elsie are looking forward to spending their remaining years enjoying their five married children and grandchildren.

*The St. Peter area is fortunate to have the Mayer's and Ranzaus' establish their businesses in this community!!!

The Ambassador's Club

The Ambassador's Club of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce was organized on April 15, 1970. The Chamber President, the dynamic Gerald Lager, and the Chamber Manager, the late Ray Blegen, called a meeting of interested Chamber members for the expressed purpose of assisting the Chamber and the St. Peter Development Corporation in obtaining new businesses, industries, and professional people for the Community.

Officers elected at the first meeting were:
President - William C. Pell
Vice-President -Mike Manuel
Secretary-Treasurer - Clete Schroepfer

At this same meeting, the bylaws, tenants and edicts were adopted, and the importance of attendance was stressed to the twenty members. Three consecutive unexcused absences, or failure to belong to the Chamber of Commerce automatically drops one from the rolls.

The twenty members, who have purchased their second set of jackets, are divided into teams with a captain designated to each. The jackets are worn while attending open houses, visiting new industries, businesses end other Chamber functions.

A dinner-dance was decided on to raise money to entertain prospective industries, businesses, and professional people, who are interested in locating in this area. Several elected county, city, and school officials, and representatives of the larger industries of the area are entertained yearly.

1971-72 Officers were:
President - Mike Manuel
Vice-President - Clete Schroepfer
Secretary-Treasurer - Larry Overn

An impressive industrial brochure was printed and distributed by the Ambassadors, with the Chamber and the St. Peter Development Corporation sharing the cost. In the fall of the same year, the Ambassadors purchased 4-H animals at the Tri-County Fair, which is a yearly event. Gerald Lager and William Pell, who had previously visited Alumacraft in the Twin Cities, saw the fruits of their harvest as Alumacraft purchased the modular building from the St. Peter Development Corporation, and since has expanded the St. Peter plant.

The "St. Peter Story", winner of the coveted "Cities Alive Award", was purchased by the Ambassadors. This slide presentation, expertly narrated, has been shown locally and state wide to many civic, fraternal, church, and other organizations over the years.

1972-73 Officers were:
President - Burton Johnson
Vice-President - Keith Keogh
Secretary-Treasurer - Larry Overn

The Ambassador's Club, since its beginning, has been interested in securing more medical doctors and a medical center for this area. This past year, many miles were covered, cities were visited, and much valuable knowledge was gained.

1974-75 Officers were:
President - Keith Keogh
Vice-President - Wally Reineke
Secretery-Treasurer - Ray C. Olson

One of the highlights of the present year has been the donation of $1500 to the Community Hospital to furnish a room in the new nursing home.

The Ambassadors have handled the (out of town) St. Peter Independence Day ticket sales, while the St. Peter Retail uncil handled the City sales. The Club, along with other Chamber members, has aided the picnic by working in the stands d assisting with the barbecue.

The Ambassadors have given their time, talent, and money to make this Community a better place in which to live and ork.

t. Peter State Hospital Complex

Center Building at
St. Peter Regional Treatment Center

The Minnesota Security and State Hospital complex is the largest employer of ople in the St. Peter Area, with a payroll of $6,400,000 for 545 people.

The Complex, subject to local, state, and national publicity, brings to mind many rsonal experiences over nearly half a century of my acquaintance with the titution. I can say, without the least equivocation, that as a laymen, I personally ow and have known more residents and employees of the Complex than anyone, in area, as we employed both during our 43 years of business.

My first recollection off the State Hospital Complex dates back to my childhood, en I would ride with my Dad by team and wagon, to the hospital grounds to pick a load of cinders, which was used for road bedding prior to the use of gravel. After ving Traverse, we'd pass the Gardner farm, where one would see and smell the first ns of spring, as a beautiful apple orchard would be at its peak. The road those days s next to the orchard and adjacent to the house. After having loaded the wagon, it s a ritual for my Dad, to pay a visit to Mr. Crane, the steward, Max Kretschmer, the ok, Augie Palmer, attendant, and George F. Freeman, the superintendent.

As I grew older, I have fond memories of playing for the William R. Witty nerican Legion Post #37 baseball team for several years against the residents and ployees of the institution on July 3. The residents of the hospital were rewarded, th lemonade, candy, and cigars to their fullest capacity. The late Jim Clifford would ditionally call the square dances to the tune of the well-known Leverson's Band. It s a yearly custom for Dr. Freeman to give us players a couple boxes of O'Henry candy bars for our efforts. On the morous side, one of the resident players, who worked on a nearby farm, had aspirations of becoming a major league seball. player. In fact his letters were so convincing to the owners of the franchises, that he received several calls from the ofessional clubs.

The hospital was in the lime light as early as 1893 as indicated in recent issue of the St. Peter Herald, stating, "The editor the St. Paul paper didn't like the way the institution was being operated, so he was personally invited to St. Peter by the itor of the St. Peter newspaper to see first hand how the institution was run".

The St. Peter residents rose to the occasion in 1883 when a fire broke out taking the lives of 25 hospital residents. The le residents were housed in the farm buildings, while many of the women were cared for in the homes of the people wntown.

The people of the community, in 1866, raised $7000 to purchase 210.9 acres of land, which is now the State Hospital mpus. The residents of the Complex were first housed in the Ewing House (Brinkman Apartments) until the center was ilt in 1866. One can see the date engraved on the building, described at the time, as the "Pride of Minnesota".

The hospital's first superintendent was Dr. Samuel E. Shantz, who after being here two years, died of typhoid. A autiful memorial window graces the chancile of the Church of the Holy Communion in his remembrance.

Dr. Shantz was succeeded by Drs. D.K. Bartlett, Harry A. Tomlinson, R.M. Phelps, George H. Freeman, and Burton P. imes. Dr. Burton P. Grimes was the last superintendent before the State instituted a dual system, Presently, William C. htburn is the chief executor of the Security Hospital, Dr. Burton P. Grimes, medical director of the St. Peter State Hospital, d William Hendrickson, institution program coordinator of the mentally retarded.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to attend several meetings at the hospital. No where can one find a dedication and self-sacrifice that has been given by the employees at the St. Peter State Hospital Complex. It isn't the bricks and mortar that make the institution, but the thousands of employees over the years, such as Earl (Kid) Witte, Augie Palmer (over 50 years), and many of the third generation employees, who have given their best to the care of the less fortunate.

In the mid-1930's, St. Peter once again made the headlines as sixteen, considered dangerous residents from the Security Hospital, scaled the wall. In due time, all were apprehended without any serious incidents. The escape was so notorious that the break was featured on the "Gang Buster's Show" radio program, which was of great interest to the people in the entire Midwest.

As was ably stated in a recent meeting, "We have learned to accept the residents of the Security and State Hospital Complex as they have learned to accept us!!!"

Northwestern Bell

Nearly a hundred years ago, Alexander Graham Bell, while experimenting with the telephone, dropped some acid on his hand and said those famous words to Thomas Watson, who was in an adjacent room, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you!!"

The New Sweden telephone service was the first service in the St. Peter area with the first switchboard installed in the home of Mr. C.C. Nelson the founder. The exchange was closed when it was converted to dial in 1942. Thus, the end of the first exchange in the county.

The St. Peter telephone service dates back to l897, when William Proctor installed an exchange on the second floor of the old Poetz Drug Store, now Mark & Jerry's Menswear. The Nicollet County Telephone Company was organized in 1898 with Charles Tolan as superintendent. The company announced that a new line would be built from St. Peter to Winthrop via Traverse, Norseland, New Sweden, and Bernadotte.

As a youngster, I recall when the Traverse Independent Telephone Company, one of the first rural companies, was prominent with Andrew Young and the late Albert Miller active in the operation. The Traverse exchange was located at the Gilbert Gilbertson farm and served Lake Prairie residents also. I am sure Mrs. Randy (Ella) Gilbertson Johnson manned the "corner line" exchange many times, as one of the Gilbertson family always had to be on duty to put the calls through. My mother recalls the days when Mrs. Gilbertson kept a dish towel within reach while kneading bread so she could wrap her hands and make a quick connection instead of washing them each time.

Mrs. R.C. (Toodie) Dahleen, Sr. gained her apprenticeship in the Cleveland exchange at the age of 13, when the switchboard was located in the Knott home. Her mother, Mrs. A.J. Knott, managed the exchange from 1920-1938 and was succeeded by Toodie, who manned the operation until her marriage in 1942.

In 1927, under the management of Otto Kohn, the Nicollet County Telephone Company built a new modern building which adequately served the community until 1961, when the present building was erected.

Mr. C.P. Peterson, District Commercial Manager, who recently retired after 47 years with the company, was the first manager when Northwestern Bell took over the local operation in 1932.

Martha Danielson Lavine and Everett Crymble are known in the area as "Ma and Pa Bell". According to the late B.M. McFarland, many years manager of the local company, Martha and Everett were two of the people who made "Ma Bell" one of the three most efficient organizations in the world. Martha served 32 years with Northwestern Bell and was Chief Operator in 1961, when the company changed to the dial system, under the supervision of the late S.W. Hanson, who had 28 years with the company. Martha has spent the past ten years working with the Mankato Citizens Telephone Company.

Everett Crymble, who has been with the company 35 years, stated that in the early days three men and the manager handled all the repair work and used three vehicles for transportation. Today, the company has 12 vehicles and 20 employees out of the St. Peter office, with a payroll in the excess of $200,000. Everett also did some collecting in addition to repairing, as he returned one day with five sacks of barley and a pig in lieu of a farmer's delinquent bill. Antique collectors won't believe it, but Everett burned and buried 3000 old phones one afternoon in the St. Peter vicinity. Many school children, as well as adults, have been enthralled with Mr. Crymble's collection of phones, which is considered one of the best in the country.

The local office is privileged with employees with many years of telephone experience, namely:- Jack Finnegan anager, has 19 years in the telephone business with five years as the local manager.

- Dick Roach is an equipment man with 28 years of experience.
- Bob Schmitz is another equipment man with 22 years of experience.
- Grace Kaveney has 24 years of experience and is now the plant clerk.
- Ace Christianson, cable maintenance, has 19 years of experience.
- Grace Lapic, service representative, has 21 years.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Harold (Laurie) Martin was the District Commercial Chief for 12 years at Redwood Falls.

In the past few years Northwestern Bell has spent $650,000 in the Cleveland area and $700,00 in the New Sweden cinity to improve their service. The St. Peter area office services 4,000 customers making 25,000 local calls daily, and the umber of phones has grown from 3,700 in 1961 to almost 8,000 today.

Yes, progress has been made in the St. Peter area since the days when my beloved wife, Renee, was an operator, the St. eter Herald's phone number was 1, Rube Seibert's Central Meat Market's number was 618, Earl Lomis' Ford Hospital's umber was 12, and the Leverson Market's number was 4.

There is an old saying "A lot of water has gone over the dam" but, in St. Peter we say "A lot of water has gone under the ridge" since Charles "Coffee," Tolan was the telephone superintendent back in the late 1800's.

The wire chiefs over the years have had the responsibility to keep things humming. "Butts" Svensk and Adolph (Cliff's ther) Mollert were wire chiefs prior to the late Charlie Dunham, who gave 42 years of dedicated service to Nicollet County, ri-State, and the Northwestern Bell Telephone Companies. Charles served his apprenticeship, using a team of horses before e advent of the Model T.

Everett Crymble, Charlie's long time friend and co-worker in the Company, said, "Charlie could smell line trouble and o one was more adept at climbing poles". Charlie and Everett experienced all kinds of weather during their many years ith the company. The worst was the November 11, 1940, Armistice Day storm, during which operators Emma Schwartz, Irs. Nestor (Marcella) Barnes, Phyllis Nygard, and Lorraine Menk Merkley worked the switchboard for 24 consecutive hours. Irs. Barnes recalled when the operators worked seven days a week with every third Sunday off. Her sister, Phyllis Nygard, as transferred to the Rochester office where she completed her career as Chief after 17 years with the Bell Telephone ompany. She is presently completing her twenty-fourth year in employment at Gustavus Adolphus College.

I am sure Mrs. Nig (Edna) Von Essen, Viola Dicks Robeck, Catherine Kennedy Meyer, Mollie Finch, Chief Martha anielson Lavine, Bernie Sjostrom's sisters (Mrs. Andy Colberg, Mildred Sjostrom, and the late Mrs. Art Rosendahl), Pearl ohnson at New Sweden, Gladys Johnson at Nicollet for thirty-one years, Dollie Leverson Wendelschafer at Besots, Toodie ahleen at Cleveland; and in the latter years, Alta Albrecht, Joycelle Leverson, Janet La Croix Michaels, Mary Osborne, leanor Gould Thompson, Shirley Connor Felton, Renee Terry Wettergren, and countless others should be recognized for eir service. I was told that the day operator, Ardys Thompson Worrell received her diamond, she was so excited that she ouldn't work and had to go home.

Clint Lomis (Earl's son) worked 22 years with Bell, starting as a janitor, while still in high school and ending as assistant reasurer for the Minnesota area of the telephone company. Clint, incidentally married a former phone operator, Helen Mae Effie) Norman.

No doubt one of the most exciting and busiest moments in the history of the area telephone operators was immediately fter 16 dangerous residents escaped from the Security Hospital. Every light was lit up on the switchboard. Twin City eporters were standing in line at the office for a phone. Pictures were sent from St. Peter via phone to the newspapers for he first time. Just recently the State Hospital switchboard was again jammed to the point where all incoming phone calls ad to be monitored. The important news?? A "sale", of course!! The Associated Press International (API) had spread the ord that St. Peter was having a coffin sale and calls flowed in from all over the nation. Where would St. Peter be today ithout the telephone? Or where would New Sweden be? How else would the New Sweden area residents, in 1899, have eceived the news from Paris, France, that Sam Haugdahl was the world's butter-making champion. Surely few other means f communications would have spread the word as quickly.

To reach the police, the Operators would flip a switch turning on the red light in front of Runkle's NuWay Cleaners. any passersby were suspicious when viewing the red light. Can you imagine Crymble and Dunham with a gun handy in heir truck for protection with so much wild game around???

Northwestern Bell expected their bills paid so Merle Mayer Gudmunson and Harriet Anderson spent many years in the main office in that capacity.

Telephone numbers were interesting as many people remember when 123 was Dr. E.G. (Goody) Olmanson's, 2 was Dr G. Ed Larson's, 5–Father James Rayan, 7–Dr. M.E. Lenander, 115–Dr. F.P., Strathern, 13–Whoeler Brothers, 558–Dr. W.W. Covell, 171–State Hospital, 173–C.E. Sjostrand's office, and 17M–Myrum's office at GAC.

Everett says that rules, regulations and edicts were strictly observed in the good old days as one telephone company had the following rules:

Rule 54: "Intoxicating Drinks and Profanity Prohibited" No employee of the company will be permitted to patronize saloons of public drinking places, and any found doing this, or drinking anywhere also intemperately, will at once be suspended from the company's service. Profanity is likewise enjoined, and local managers are especially charged with the enforcement of these two important rules.

Rule 30: Livestock was given top priority, but even the dollar was sacred. It is the duty of the Manager to see that the company's livestock is properly fed and attended to and not over driven, and the harness properly oiled and attended to.

It would have been interesting to see how the above rules were enforced!

Bolton & Menk Engineering, Inc.

The firm of Bolton and Menk Engineering, Inc. was founded in 1949 by John Bolton and Martin C. (Bud) Menk, Jr. The firm's original goal was to provide engineering services for communities in Southern Minnesota that did not have the advantage of a full time municipal engineer, combined with surveying and land development. Through the years, Bolton and Menk have served approximately 80 towns in the nine counties of Region 9.

A fleet of two cars, some surveying equipment and an office in the basement of Martin's sister's home was the embryonic start of the firm.

The first summer's work consisted mostly of surveying and that same year Governor's Heights development was initiated. They also expended to the Mankato area about this time. Unfortunately they are unable to display their "first dollar earned" as they were unable to collect for their first surveying job. In the same year the growing firm built a 12 X 20 frame building for their headquarters on a leased lot at the rate of $25 per month.

In the fall of 1949, the firm awarded their first engineering contract, which was plans and specifications for improving all the streets in the village of Vernon Center. Komatz Construction Company was the contractor who worked under unfavorable conditions as it rained nearly every day.

In 1950, the firm became involved in drainage work for Nicollet, Sibley, and Redwood counties; and in the municipal work of St. James, Madelia, and Lake Crystal. It is a tribute to the firm that 25 years later, they are still engaged by these same communities.

Dick Gardner, Dale Windhorn and a few years later, Pell (Jiggs) Johnson, joined the fast expanding company and their original office was doubled with a 12 X 20 addition.

1959 was the year Charlie Dahlgren, part-time engineer resigned and the City of St. Peter contracted the Bolton, Inc. services in 1967. The City of North Mankato employed the services of the ever growing firm, Martin said, "The firm places engineers in the community who are able to give personal and individual services as they are familiar with its problems. In 1961, the small engineering firm of Merle Johnson of Blue Earth was acquired. Bill Sayre joined the Bolton & Menk firm in 1963 in Fairmont when the firm employed the services of Bob Lee, who had been with an engineering firm in that City. With the southern office in Fairmont, the firm is better able to serve Southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa. This branch of the operation does municipal engineering for Blue Earth, Wells, Winnebago, Sherburn and other communities.

The Mankato business increased to the extent that in 1965, the St. Peter building was sold to the Minnesota School Boards Association and the office moved to Mankato to concentrate on the Mankato Area. This office covers Madelia, Lake Crystal, St. James, LeSueur, Waterville, Eagle Lake, Nicollet, Kasota, and others. Incidentally, the Kasota job will be the lengthiest job as will have taken nine years from preliminary study to the completion.

John Bolton, now retired continues his interest in the firm by acting in an advisory capacity. The company counts as its greatest asset, its experienced staff. Seven employees have been with the firm over 15 years. The staff includes seven rofessional engineers, land surveyors, an associate planner, plus three engineers and surveyors in training. This staff is upported by as many as 25 employees during the peek season.

When unique or unusual technical problems arise, the firm engages other experts in the field so the clients have the enefit of the best talent available for their particular needs. The firm has had the experience of combating two of the largest loods of the century when the Minnesota River reached its greatest heights overflowing its banks and jeopardizing the Broadway Bridge. It was equally beneficial to the City of St. Peter and Area and to Martin (Bud) Menk, Jr., that he returned o St. Peter after World War II married a local girl, Carol (Tie-Me) Johnson, raised a family and pursued his profession.

St. Peter Lumber Yards

The two local well-known lumber yards, Lampert Building Center and Standard Lumber Yard, were in operation before ne turn of the century.

Lampert Building Center

According to the deed dated December 6, 1895, the Lampert Lumber Company, now known as the Lampert Building Center, was purchased from W.H. Rounseville, an early settler in the St. Peter area, for the sum of $7,500.

The founders, Jake and Leonard Lampert, started the operation at Grace and Third, where it remained until 13 years ago When the property was sold to George Wooldrick of Sleepy Eye, who built the present National Tea Supermarket. At that ime, 1962, Lamperts purchased the Monahan Lumber Company on North Minnesota Avenue and have continued operating rom that location until present time.

It is interesting to note, that A.M. Jensen, Margaret Gillam's father, purchased an interest in the firm in 1916, and the firm ecame known as "Jensen and Lampert". At the same time, Jensen became an auditor for the Lampert Yards of Southern Minnesota and turned over the duties as manager to Gust E. Olson, who managed until 1919, when Raymond Ecklund ecame head of the firm. In 1923, the estate of the Lampert brothers was divided. Sons of Leonard Lampert took over the ards including St. Peter and called themselves the "Lampert Lumber Company", and the sons of Jake Lampert called the emaining half "The Jake Lampert Line, Inc."

From 1941-1950, Ken Lind managed the company and was succeeded by Rollie Neils, present manager, who has served he company for 25 years. During Rollie's regime, the company has developed many parcels of land, constructing over 100 omes. Two of the largest areas developed were Lampert's Subdivision in 1958 with 23 homes erected, and Eric Peterson's roperty, north of Governor's Heights, in 1968, where 72 homes will have been constructed when the development is ompleted.

The Lampert Lumber Building Center is continually expanding as shown by its recent purchase of the former CBS Liquor art, which is located adjacent to their present location. To date, the firm has 55 building centers in operation in the State of innesota.

tandard Lumber Company

One of the outstanding institutions that had their birth in St. Peter is the Standard Lumber Company, today recognized as ne of the largest chain yards in the state. The Horton and Jackson names have been synonymous with the Standard Lumber ompany since the firm was founded in 1894 by F.B. Jackson (C.H. "Ted" Jackson's grandfather) and Roscoe Horton, and as located on the old Winona tracks near the present South Elementary School.

From that location, the company next moved to the property where the Odd Fellow's Lodge building is now located and bb Reid's Hardware Hank is operating. The office building, moved from the Odd Fellow's location, was demolished two ears ago to make room for a new 40' x 230' storage building. A new 1600 square foot office building will be constructed in e near future for the ever growing firm.

The company is presently headed by the fourth and fifth generations of Horton's with their headquarters in Winona nce 1898. According to the St. Peter Herald's Diamond Jubilee of 1930, the company owned 39 lumber yards in Southern nd Central Minnesota. C.H. Jackson (Ted's father) resigned as manager in 1923 and was succeeded by Floyd "Sawdust" llwiler, who was followed by Harry Fredricksen. C.H. "Ted" Jackson was the third generation of Jackson's to work for the company and was employed there from 1926-1934. Several others managed the local concern until Ervin Engel spent many years heading the business, during which time the company enjoyed continuous expansion. In November of 1970, Duane DeBlieck took over and is still managing the St. Peter firm today.

To date, the Standard Lumber Company has 33 retail outlets: one ready mix plant, one wholesale yard, one block company, and one sawmill in operation.

The lumber yards are always willing to help and support the community as each year they contribute to the lumber and blocks for the Fourth of July Picnic at Minnesota Square, and other stands.

Savings And Loan Firms In St. Peter

Savings and loan institutions have remained virtually unchanged since its conception in the U.S. in 1831. Savings and loan associations provide safe places where people can save money and earn a return on it. Savings and loans, like our banks, lend money to families or builders who wish to purchase or build homes. The St. Peter Savings and Loan, First Federal Savings and Loan, and the local banks fulfilled their purpose as most of the area homes have been financed by these institutions.

St. Peter Savings and Loan

The St. Peter Savings and Loan organized one year after the close of World War I. The first meeting was held in the Citizen's Bank building, (now Swedish Kontur). First officers were Teddy Knoll, president, who had a store and saloon where Wally's Valley Liquors is located, R.C. Kneip, vice-president, A.F. Burgmeister, and H.B. Seitzer, Treasurer. Burgmeister and Seitzer spent the most years with the firm, with Seitzer retiring after 54 years with that financial institution.

H.E. Weist , Roy Warning, Louis Haney, Clarence Johnson, the late E.C. Davis, Otto Peterson, Andy Cook and many others have worked for the St. Peter Savings and Loan, helping to raise the assets from $50,000 in 1919 to $2,686,000 today.

A.W. (Al) Meyer, who has now completed 25 years as secretary-treasurer and managing officer, stated that the first application and loan processed when he took over his duties July 1, 1950, was to Robert W. and Renee M. Wettergren for $8,500 at 5% interest – I remember well the payments were $67.23 monthly and hard to meet.

The organization moved into the "Old Nicollet County Bank" building in 1973 and since then, has enjoyed its greatest growth.

Present officers besides Meyer are: president, Adrian Biehn; vice-president, Earl J. Erickson; E.B. Heilman, Roger Swenson, and Gilbert Voss. In 1973, Barbara Beatty was named assistant secretary-treasurer. M.K. MacKenzie serves as their legal consultant.

First Federal Savings and Loan

The St. Peter branch of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association was initiated in 1972 and moved into their present quarters at 604 South Minnesota on July 1, 1973.

The colonial building was constructed by Bill Myron and Co., while Shirley Lorhammer designed the Swedish Colonial decor of the interior.

The First Federal Savings and Loan firm was established in Mankato in 1881 with assets of a mere $8,000. The first mortgage by First Federal in St. Peter was recorded over 75 years ago. The Mankato, St. Peter, New Ulm, Le Sueur and soon to open Waseca offices have combined assets of $87,500,000 today.

The first continues to give people of the St. Peter area a chance to buy and build new homes and businesses through various financing programs, including F.H.A. and G.I. approved loans. All the monies deposited in a local office is returned to that community in the form of mortgages. Strict laws and regulations govern the granting of charters and operations of business in regard to savings and home financing.

The St. Peter office is managed by Tom Stienessen, formerly of Plainview, Winthrop, and a graduate of Mankato State College with degrees in accounting and business administration. Tom will receive his masters in financing come January.

These financial institutions, along with the banks, have been extremely instrumental and progressive in the growth of e St. Peter area.

lumacraft

The Alumacraft Boat Company, an offspring of the Flour City Ornamental Iron Company of the Twin City Area, started s manufacturing in 1946.

In 1970, the Alumacraft Company purchased by Timpte Industries, Inc. and under the leadership of Ray Bissell, Vice-esident of Timpte, began searching for new quarters approximately 60-70 miles from the metropolitan area.

Mr. Bissell visited the Chamber of Commerce in St. Peter and was overwhelmed by the hospitality of the chamber anager, the late Ray Blegen. The presidents of the two local banks, Sam Gault and Sam Abrahamson, were what Bissell rmed "Super Friendly". G. Lager and W. Pell, representing the St. Peter Development Corporation and the Ambassadors ub, made several visits to the Twin Cities to assure Bissell that St. Peter was the place to relocate. The community ceptance was beyond comprehension, and thus the moving into what was originally the Modular Industries Plant, at the me owned by the St. Peter Development Corporation.

Alumacraft purchased the 23,000 square foot building. Since then, they've added 20,000 square feet to the building, in ddition to purchasing land from Gordie Robeck and Lloyd Thompson. In April 1974, Alumacraft purchased the General arine Industries, Inc. at Arkdelphia, Arkansas, where the Jons flat boats are manufactured.

The work force, averaging 100 employees on the payroll the past few years, manufactures 37 different model boats and noes, which are distributed coast to coast to 35 different states and Canada by eight transports to more than 500 dealers. e sale of Alumacraft products is strongest in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area and remains strong east of the Mississippi River the Atlantic.

Canoes have accounted for the largest growth of the company. The unique feature of their boats and canoes is the etcher method, which is when aluminum for boats or canoes is stretched up to 6%, depending on the model, and is made m only two halves compared to their competitor's three sections. Alumacraft is the largest user of aluminum in Southern innesota and is one of the top consumers of electricity in the City of St. Peter.

Dave Benbow, President of Alumacraft, stated, "Leisure time, accessibility to 10,000 lakes and many rivers, and canoeing ing cheap entertainment, makes canoeing and boating so popular, with the younger generation being the most active stomers".

Dave Benbow became president of the company in 1972 having worked in sales for Timpte Industries, Inc. before ming to St. Peter. Benbow hails from Wisconsin Rapids and received a degree in Business/Accounting from the University Utah.

Vern Berglin, vice-president/treasurer, joined the company in 1961 after graduating from International Falls High School, d the University of Minnesota.

Russell Swenson, vice-president of manufacturing, has been with the company for over 23 years. His father engineered d designed the original boats.

Robert Hobson is vice-president of sales and commutes from Prior Lake.

The company prides itself for having captured the top ten places at the U.S. Canoe Association's National Race on the St. seph River at Bristol, Indiana. Alumacraft officials attribute the success in the race to the flat bottom design which allows e contestant to paddle faster.

Alumacraft boats and canoes are used in Disney World, and are the official boats and canoes listed in the Boy Scouts of nerica Manual.

Ray Bissell is happy he chose St. Peter for Alumacraft's new home and is anxious to utilize the additional 25% space in e near future.

Cargill Seed Company

The Cargill Seed Company purchased the Nicollet County Seed Corn Company, located at Third and Broadway, in 1946, from the late Lyle Churchill, Ken Hayes, and Jack Barnard. Employees at the time were Alex Peterson, Leo Pankratz, Art Maas, Waldemar Engel, Edna Theis, Ted Langhoff, who later became manager of Cargill, Inc., and the following who have passed away: Elmer Menk, Don Menk, Harold Bode, and Harold Garvin. The territory served by the Nicollet County Seed Corn Company at that time was South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

In the year 1958, Cargill expanded their operation to East St. Peter by purchasing a tract of land from the St. Peter Development Corporation for taxes plus $1.00 and attorney fees. The buildings and property have since been sold to Rollie Heilman. In 1952, during one of St. Peter's two major floods, thousands of bushels of seed corn (35% of corn in storage) was taken by buckets from the bins and transported by boat to higher ground. The wet corn was transported by horse-drawn wagons by various farmers in the area to be used as feed.

The company abandoned its former location in 1970 and is presently housed in a 42,000 square foot building. This land, located in the Industrial Park, was purchased from the St. Peter Development Corporation during the presidency of Sam Gault. This new plant has a capacity of 200,000 bags and one of the features of the plant, designed by manager, Ted Langhoff, 23 years ago, is a labor-saving "Fork-Lift Pull-Pack". One man, with a pull-pack can handle 3,000 bags a day – whereas before it took six people to do it by hand.

The St. Peter office serves approximately 600 salesmen and dealers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and will be serving Canada this coming year. Corn is transported to these areas by trucks from Diettrick of New Ulm, Chadderdon of LeCenter, and Thorn Brothers of Mankato.

It is interesting to note that most farmers today are going to an earlier corn of the 100-105 day variety because of the short season and early frost. In the past, Cargill has planted as much as 3,000 acres in this area to be sold as seed, but has abandoned planting the last few years with the yearly loss of a lot of acreage because of the shorter season. Many people in the area well remember working for Cargill as youngsters, trudging through the wet fields from dawn to dusk and detasseling the corn, spurred on only by the thought of the upcoming paycheck.

Ted Langhoff, haling from the Lafayette area prior to the Bernadotte International Airport and Traverse School of Technology, has been with the company 30 years. He has served on the St. Peter City Council for three years, nine years on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a former vice-president of the Shoreland Country Club, and chairman of the Grounds Committee.

Other plant employees are Andy Miller, Ed Anton, Arnie Jaster, Willard Pehrson, Marcie Juberian - production secretary, and Judy Noyd - sales secretary. Adam Koble is research director assisted by Lloyd Elton, John Arison, and Arden Campbell. Dale West is the local service technician director and Roger Watke is the sales manager.

Other well-known people employed by Cargill are Ken Hayes of the Minneapolis office, who is in charge of the foreign sales and development; and Dick Lamberton, great grandson of Captain William B. Dodd, founder of St. Peter, is in charge of salary administration.

Ted Langhoff stated that he is extremely pleased with his work force as the St. Peter plant pays the highest wage rate per hour of any Cargill plants and the cost per bag is the cheapest.

The Cargill Seed Company has been a real asset to the St. Peter area in the past and seems destined to remain the same in the future.

St. Peter School Bus Lines

The bus ride to the St. Peter-St. Thomas championship football game on Friday, November 14, via the Boucher Sue Enterprises, Inc., brought back many memories of the 1930's and 40's while playing baseball with the St. Peter High School and independent baseball teams.

I particularly remember in the late 30's when the town baseball team traveled to Watertown, South Dakota, one Sunday play their semi-pro team. Frank Pugsley, our pitcher, who later played with the St. Paul Saints in the American ssociation, broke out in laughter causing Click Webster to inquire about his problem. Pugsley replied, "There is a sign with skull end crossed bones above the choke on the dash board with a caption "Carbon Monoxide Kills!" The atmosphere as already so blue from the exhaust fumes and cigarette smoke, one could hardly see the driver much less see the sign.

I vividly recall as does Bob Faust, before the use of buses, my Dad transporting an entire kid's baseball teem of 18 ayers to a Minneapolis Miller baseball game in the early 30's with a Ford panel truck which was more of a thrill to us than eeing Harmon Killebrew hit one to the upper deck in Met Stadium.

It was most encouraging to see a "No Smoking" sign prominently displayed as I sat with two of our friendly bankers, m Gault and Pete Prust, during our trip to the football game on Friday.

We were privileged to have two former University of Minnesota letter winners on our bus, namely Casey Dowling and Westphal, Ed played with the immortal Bronko Nagurski and presently resides at the Grandview Nursing Home as does oe Krisatis, who also made the trip.

Early bus owners and operators were Bill Boucher (Floyd's father), Red Wolfe, Bob Dranttel, Babe Kayser, end the late arley Frey and Vic Schmit.

oucher Enterprises. Inc.

The first Boucher bus was a 1927 Chevy car. In 1928 a wooden bus body was put on a 1925 Chevy chassis. This is quite contrast to today's 21 buses.

Floyd and his wife, Audrey, took over the operation in 1946 upon Floyd's return from the U.S. armed forces. Floyd is ost thankful for the hundreds of GAC students, who have driven his buses millions of miles, which has been beneficial to oth parties.

Floyd has hauled college, Senior High and Junior High teams, in addition to thousands of others since 1946; but, the ghlight of his career was arriving home with the third place High School Baseball Champs to see hundreds of cars waiting St. Julien Street for the team's arrival. He said neither he nor Coach Nesheim could hardly contain their emotions. Floyd, uring his four day stay at the State tourney, was exceptionally proud of the team and coach's conduct.

chmit Bus Service

The Schmit Bus Service was started in 1941 by Vic and Ruby Schmit operating one bus. At the time of Vic's death in 962, they were operating 5 buses.

In addition to Ruby, other drivers were Harry Nickel. Carlton “Nooky” Anderson, who was also the mechanic. Denny, ho is now the mechanic and his wife, Jeri purchased the business in 1974.

On our trip to the St. Peter-Windom game with KRBI announcer, Bob Johnson, we passed the Schmit bus and Harry ey, when noticing Jeri at the wheel Bob remarked. “Jeri can drive with the best of them – men or women!”

aughdahl Bus Lines

In 1974 Abner S. Haugdahl started the Haugdahl bus lines with the late Donnie Menk, who drove for 8 years. Presently, e Haugdahl Bus Lines operate two buses with Pat Ohotto, Sam's mechanic's wife, along with Carol and Sam doing the riving. Carol gained her valuable apprenticeship under Sam's expert tutelage.

The buses are checked twice a year for safety by the highway patrol. The addition of two-way radios has been a god-end especially when the buses go in groups through crowded traffic or into unfamiliar areas. An interesting fact remains at 52% of our students enrolled in the public and parochial schools of St. Peter are bused by these lines, and the schools re most cooperative. For many years school districts have discussed the issue of school owned buses versus privately wned. I firmly believe that the service rendered by the privately owned buses is a great attribute to our free enterprise ystem.

Hendrickson Organ Co., Inc.

The Hendrickson Organ Company, Inc. began it's operation in 1964 while Charles was an instructor of physics at Mankato State College. The first work was done in the rented basement of Dick Lurth in Mankato and in the old Jolly Green Giant Factory in Winthrop, Minnesota. Hendrickson's first organ was for the First Lutheran Church in Winthrop.

The Hendrickson name is synonymous with Gustavus Adolphus College as Charles' late father, Roy, an attorney from Willmar, was chairman for many years of the G.A.C. Board and, along with the late Dr. Hobart Johnson, started the alumni fund. Charles' mother was the secretary for Dr. Edgar Carlson, a former president of G.A.C.

Charlie's wife, Birgitta, came from Sweden to teach a foreign language at Gustavus and is presently in the foreign language department at Mankato State University. They live with their two boys, Eric and Andreas, at 518 College Avenue here in St. Peter.

When Charles and Birgitta first moved to St. Peter in 1966, they utilized various portions of their house as an organ shop: a garage was the wood shop, the basement a voicing room and a bedroom served as the office. In 1971, Charlie acquired land from the St. Peter Development Corporation in the Industrial Park and built a 3,400 square foot building at 1403 North Fifth Street. This modern shop is air conditioned and contains dust precipitators for keeping the air clean in wood working areas.

The company is unique because it employs no salesman as the orders are obtained entirely by referrals and word of mouth. The twelve employees are treated on the basis of total freedom. There are no hours, no schedules, and every employee is free to come and go of his own accord. There are no two days when the same number of employees work the same schedule. Few people are capable of working with such freedom and the few who have the self-discipline and desire to work and appreciate such freedom have become the mainstay of their work force. This is quite a contrast to today's run-of-the-mill employment.

Hendrickson's incorporated in 1973 and builds five to six organs a year in the four-state area. Besides churches in the area, the company has built organs for G.A.C., St. Olaf in Northfield, Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, and the Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin systems.

The company recently purchased the land adjacent to their present quarters from the St. Peter Development Corporation anticipating a small expansion of working facilities and a moderate increase in employment.

The Hendrickson Organ Company, Inc. is booked solid for the next thirty months with contracts for the following churches and schools: St. John's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota; Sts. Peter and Paul's R.C. in Mankato, Minnesota; Peace Lutheran Church in New London, Minnesota; Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer, Minnesota; Holmen Lutheran Church in Holmen, Wisconsin; University of Minnesota in Morris, Minnesota; Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minnesota; two organs for the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, Wisconsin; the First United Presbyterian Church in Willmar, Minnesota; First Lutheran Church in St. Peter, Minnesota; and the Congregational Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

A special feature of the organ company is that no two organs are alike. The company stressed that organs are an integral part of the interior of a room as each instrument is designed totally and visually as a part of the architecture and acoustics of its location. The function of an organ varies with the desires of the purchasers, whether it be college, church, or private residence, so does the design vary to accommodate the demands placed upon it. The same people who build an organ are responsible for its installation and factory servicemen provide the service and tuning of all the instruments so continuity is provided from the design through the construction, installation and service of the organs.

In the making of the organs, the company uses 5,000 board feet of red and white oak and walnut per year. The white oak and walnut is obtained mostly from the surrounding area and the red oak comes from the East. In addition, several tons of tin, lead, and zinc, ten miles of wire and 200 gallons of lacquer are used yearly.

Charlie is proud to be here in St. Peter as he firmly believes in our local industry and businesses for he moved to St. Peter by choice after teaching several years in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

nowmobile Industry & Dealers

Snowmobiles properly used are the greatest motor invention devised since the advent of Henry Ford's Model-T at the rn of the century.

A new season has been created and brings pleasure for both the young and the old. It is so great that Dr. Stan Kaisersatt d Stan Torgerson rate the sport nearly par with fishing.

I recall, when as an Alderman of the City of St. Peter, the complaints and long discussions we had about the pre-enagers and other unlawful snowmobilers driving on sidewalks and in the parks; thus being a menace to the pedestrians.

The snowmobile clubs came forward to help, aid, and assist the city in drafting ordinances and promoting the safety structions that have alleviated the problems.

The St. Peter area, like most communities, has a number of snowmobile clubs that promote safety and the sport such as e Norseland Sno-Scouts, Nicollet Sno-Flyers, Kasota Hill & Gully Club, and the Traverse des Sioux Club which is most miliar to me.

Sheriff George "Tip" Witty stated, "The snowmobile was a godsend during the "Storm of the Century" as hundreds of randed people were rescued through the use of snowmobiles."

Jim Wolf, administrator of the Grandview Nursing Home, said he was most indebted to the Traverse des Sioux Club for ansporting employees during the crisis.

"Pete" Pedersen of Skogmos Department Store, with his snowmobile came to the rescue of a KRBI Radio announcer by elivering a delicious ranch-type breakfast in answer to the stranded announcer's SOS.

Snowmobiles are also used to search for missing persons in areas otherwise unaccessable to searchers. The snowmobile kewise is used to check cabins and cottages unattended during the winter months.

The Traverse des Sioux Club is a non-profit organization whose proceeds are donated to a special education class, the arch of Dimes, and Cancer Research. Present officers of this club are: Chuck Berg, president; Mike Mayo, vice-president; enny Schmit, treasurer; and Gary Derner, secretary.

The Traverse des Sioux (crossing by the Sioux) Club, under the direction of Bob Maas, is responsible for patrolling the ridges that cross the Minnesota River and Cherry Creek. Former presidents of this benevolent organization are Sheriff eorge "Tip" Witty, Paul Johnson, Tuff Miller, Fred Pehrson, and Bob Maas.

Dranttel Sales and Service, Wilson's Snowmobile, Zins Hardware & Implement, Don's Ace Hardware & Appliance, enner Brothers, Dick's Sports Center, and Vetter Sales & Service have not only diversified from other businesses, but the ervicing and sales of snowmobile paraphernalia pumped millions of dollars into the area.

Walt Vetter, Mayor of Kasota, dealer of Polaris Snowmobiles (winner of the Mayor's Pie Eating Contest), forms the Vetter ales & Service with sons, Jim and Jerry. Walt says their firm is the oldest snowmobile dealership in the entire Southern innesota area.

John "Butch" Dranttel, of Dranttel Sales & Service, has been the dealer of Scorpion since 1967 and added the Yamaha ne in 1974. It is difficult for me to associate the Dranttel name with anything except watermelons.

Wilson's Snowmobile, owned by Jim Wilson, is a dealership for Rupp machines. The Wilson name, as Dranttel, has been ynonymous with watermelons since my boyhood days.

Wenner Brothers, Don and Mert, started selling Skiroules in 1969 from a remodeled barn on their farm, three miles west f St. Peter. Don has been active in 4-H snowmobile projects and is a certified safety instructor.

Zins Hardware & Implement, Inc. of Nicollet is owned by Mayor Paul Zins (winner of the Mayor's "Free Throw" ontest). Paul distributes six John Deere snowmobile models in addition to operating his well-known hardware and mplement business.

Don's Ace Hardware and Appliance, owned and operated by Don Neiman, took on the John Deere dealership in 1972. Don's service department was busy all summer so he thought "why not keep them busy in the winter too?" The sales and servicing has become an integral part of his business.

Marge, Dick, and Mike Bloom are the owners and operators of Dick's Sports Center. In 1973, Marge and Dick won a ten day vacation to Hawaii for being one of the top dealers in sales for the Arctic Cat Company. Son, Mike, a G.A.C. graduate, has furthered his schooling by attending the service seminars sponsored by Arctic Cat. Marge and Dick have attended many meetings promoting the recreational use of snowmobiles. In fact, Marge is so involved in the sport that she's known as "Snowflake"!!!

Widen Tool & Stamping, Inc.

Widen Tool & Stamping, Inc., trade name derived from the last names of owners, Don Wilde and LeRoy Salden, is located at 1206 South Front in the old Engesser Brewery, one of St. Peter's land marks built in 1856 near the banks of then the beautiful Minnesota River.

Although not presently used, the artesian well which supplied water for the famous "Export 56" beer and Engesser soda pop is now capped. Former employees of the brewery, Ed and son, Clifford "Tishy" Drenttel, well remember the two tunnel that lead to Bobby Geldner's Construction quarters on the river bank. One tunnel was a walkway while the other, a catacombs type, was used by the horse-drawn wagons and trucks to transport the barrels to the main plant.

Don and LeRoy purchased the suitable building that meets all present needs and future expansion plans. The building formerly housed the ADC Products plant when in its infancy had all the necessary utilities for the tool and stamping operation.

Several other businesses occupy this complex also, namely: L.B. Miner Motor Repair, Rausch Auto Reconditioning, and Valley Auto Parts.

Owners, Don Wilde and LeRoy Salden, began operation of the tool and stamping company in October of 1974 without a single contract. Don, hailing from Lewisville, Minnesota, after a stint in the service, learned his trade at Mankato Vo-tech before his employment with Midwest Electric in 1956 from whence he left as tool room foreman in 1975. LeRoy a native of St. Bonifacius, came to St. Peter from Tonka Toys in Mound, where his responsibility was plant manager. LeRoy was hired by Jack Habinger, the founder of Midwest Electric, in 1968 as plant foreman. One of LeRoy's first duties was to design and build the present Midwest Electric facilities which is a testimony to his abilities. The Widen Company is the only known tool and dye company in southern Minnesota.

The Company does work for many well known manufacturers in Minnesota and South Dakota, and are planning to expand throughout the Midwest states. Some of the manufacturers are Hiniker tractor cabs, Johnson Reel, and Alumacraft boat works in the St. Peter Area. Other known manufac-turers they supply are A.R. Woods of Luverne which manu-factures chicken and cattle feeding equipment and free standing fireplaces; and Parker Hannifan of Granite Falls manufactures lubricating equipment. In addition, Widen does precision work for farm equipment, auto repair shops, creameries, and many other businesses in the area.

The difference between the Widen heating ovens and the old "Village Smithy" is that the heating of the precision tools can only vary a few degrees in order to reach perfection.

One of the latest products manufactured by Widen for Hiniker Cab Company is the "Skeeter Eater" which can eliminate the number one pest in our Minnesota summers.

Don and LeRoy are especially enthused with the reception of the sale of "rock gard", a protective shield attached to the rear wheel fender of light duty trucks to guard against stones and salt that cause chipping. On March 1, 6000 Chevrolet dealers and 3600 GMC truck dealers throughout the country will be receiving a leaflet explaining the "rock guard".

Within the next year, the company expects to reach the employment of 12 workers in their organization, all who receive on the job apprenticeship.

LeRoy says that he and Don have been overwhelmed by the concern and cooperation received from the people of St. Peter and area and are looking forward to a continued growing business.

inRay Manufacturing Company

ormerly known as Selby Manufacturing)

The name GinRay is derived from the names of the new owners, Virginia and Ray Sandhofner, who purchased the siness March 1, 1976, from the family of the late Robert Selby.

The late Bob Selby was born on his grandfather's homestead on the banks of the Watonwan River in Blue Earth County. b's father pursued the education field, later becoming a superintendent, and the rural school house he taught in, in Blue rth County, will be moved to the Lake Crystal FARMFEST '76 site.

Bob, with his wife, Irma, who had a farm background that helped her win four 4-H national titles and was a 4-H ganizer in Morristown, Minnesota, purchased the Henry Aaestrom Blacksmith Shop in Nicollet one month prior to the mbing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Bob expanded the Blacksmith business by fixing machinery for area farmers, and later ilding wagons, front-end snow scoops, snow plows cement mixers, and front-end loaders. At the time of incorporation of Selby Manufacturing Company, Bob was President; Eugene, the eldest son, was vice-president; and Irma was Secretary-easurer.

In the year 1953, Ray Sandhofner joined the firm and had been foreman till the recent purchase of the business. In the me year, the late Ed Johannes, President of the Nicollet State Bank (Charlie Poncin's predecessor), because of his faith in b's ability and ingenuity, extended credit so that the company was able to enter the manufacturing of propane tanks and designing end building of the Kayot Pontoon Boats for the Keys Computation of Mankato. During the three years they nufactured for the Keyes Corporation, Bob and Ray spent many afternoons perfecting the pontoon while also enjoying eir favorite past time, fishing, on Lake Washington.

Since they started, 200,000 ton of plate steel has been used for the manufacturing of propane tanks. Much of this steel of nge quality, because of the shortage and high prices, has been shipped from Germany, Japan, Venezuela, Mexico, gland, and France. The company has used 2000 ton of sheet steel for the manufacture of pontoon boats.

Selby Manufacturing purchased the Palm Beach Pontoon line in 1960 from the Varner Brothers of Zumbrota, Minnesota, ich is now a U.S. registered pontoon in Washington, D.C. A special feature of this pontoon is that it has a retractable iler, built into the unit and is the only one of its kind in the country.

One of the unique inventions by Selby Manufacturing was a sand blaster which makes the material perfectly clean fore the painting by a power coating put on by an electrostatic spraying system in a gas-fire oven and baked at 400 grees for 40 minutes.

The company, in the past few months, started the manufacturing of steel tubing hog fencing for Marten's Distributing in urtland, Minnesota.

During the height of production, in 1953, because of the demand for tanks, Selby's employed 17 people. Presently they ve nine employees making the Company the largest manufacturing firm in Nicollet. Long time employees are Donald elke, Ronald Dallmann, Arnold Flowers, and Carrie Hoffer.

These self-educated inventors, Bob and Ray, not only built much of their own machinery, but most of the plant. There is main shop which is 120' by 120', a 40' by 60' repair shop, and a 40' by 30' paint shop and oven.

Bob and Irma enjoyed their many trips, not only in the U.S.A. but also their around-the-world trip in 1966. Bob also oyed many hunting trips, the last being with his three sons to Wyoming a week before he passed away.

The Selby's sons have all worked at one time or another at the plant. Wayne is presently working for GinRay nufacturing Company, Dale is a taxidermist, and Eugene operates the Selby Plaza and teaches at Mankato Vo-Tech. ughter, Audrey, is married to Ralph Keyes, who is the assistant superintendent at Waseca.

Bob, in all his humility, was a fisherman of men and credited the Lord for his ability and talent that contributed to his cessful business. Missions in the Philippines, Rhodesia, India, and the Belgian Cango benefited from his generosity.

The GinRay Manufacturing Company plans to continue serving the Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa territory. The present officers are Ray as President; his wife, Virginia, who also owns and operates a school bus, is vice-president; and daughter, Cindy Gleason, is Secretary-Treasurer. They anticipate a steady increase and a stable economy in the future for their new business, thus carrying on where the Selby's left off.

St. Peter Pre-Schoolers

"Young Child Week" never was thought of when Mrs. Monday started a school in a log cabin chanty near the residence of Captain William B. Dodd, the founder of St. Peter, whose home is now occupied by the Earl Hanson family.

I vividly remember my Grandpa, Bill Pell's, stories about attending that one room grammar school. Those who knew him were careful to extract the facts from the fiction to be somewhat authentic.

St. Peter Play Group

Years ago, children were relatively older upon entering and leaving school than they are today. Pre-kindergarten schools were unthought of in our area until the St. Peter Play Group was organized in 1956 by Mrs. Allan Whitman, Mrs. Walt Martell, Mrs. Martin Menk, Mrs. George Mattaini, and Mrs. Ross Bloomquist. The first sessions were held in the rent-free rooms of the Episcopal Parish Hall in the shadows of where the Sunday school once stood. Being a non-profit organization, many people contributed and sacrificed to make this school what it is today.

Barbara Koseck is the director of the program and is assisted by Mrs. James "Buzz" Lampert, who is completing her 16th year in the school. Under their guidance, the pre-schoolers learn language arts and music in a creative way, learn to increase their attention span, learn to love and accept themselves as individuals and to accept others, experience indoor and outdoor play, and learn to explore their environment through field trips and hikes.

Sessions are held each week day morning from October to April in the Union Presbyterian Church.
Present officers are Mrs. Keith Paterson, Mrs. Richard Alver, and Mrs. Gary Gilbertson.

Head Start

The Head Start program, operating under the auspices of the Minnesota Valley Action Council, serves seventeen children (ages 3-5) in the St. Peter-Kasota area with an adequate waiting list. Head Start is mandated to serve those families whose incomes fall below the poverty level or where the child has a special need.

The program started in 1967 in a building on the State Hospital Campus. In 1971 it was moved to the basement of the Armory. Many people in the St. Peter area have pleasant and unpleasant memories of this facility which was the hub of activity since its construc-tion in 1912. Members of the National Guard "Battery B" 215 Coast Artillery headquartered in the Armory prior to the outbreak of World War II as did the service battery – 1st Battalion during the Korean War.

Old timers remember dancing to Al Menke, Bobby Griggs, and many other popular bands that played weekly during "Foncie" Fiedler's promotional days. Alderman Mel Lurth, Roger "Bud" Wolfe, Mert Kirby, and Bud Allen played with the Kasota "Crushers" at many independent basketball tournaments in the facility.
It was of heartfelt joy to visit the Head Start quarters and watch the happy children in action enjoying their morning snack, story-telling, singing, reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance", learning art, music, and health habits.

Margaret Michels, Shirley Bishop, Carol Cook, and Pat Fischer (the program developer), are responsible for developing and maintaining their program supported by 80% federal funds and the remainder by local contributors.

Jack & Jill's Nursery School

The Jack and Jill Nursery School, a non-sectarian school located in the First Lutheran Church on Traverse Road, is owned and operated by Connie Daugherty. Connie graduated from the University of Minnesota where she majored in Nursery, Kindergarten, and Primary Education. She is certified by the U of M and operates a licensed and inspected school for the benefit of children aged 3 years – Kindergarten.

The school is in session from October through April with a 3-day week (12 sessions per month) and a 2-day week (8 sessions per month), with the latter being less expensive.

Three goals set forth by the facility are: 1) Make the child's first school experience a happy one; 2) Help each child develop a self-concept; and 3) Provide as many first hand experiences as possible. The daily program includes creative play, ory-telling, creative expression, exercise, field trips, health habits, and thoughtful and sympathetic guidance. Connie and er assistant, Nancy Roberts, are grateful for the help, aid and assistance from G.A.C. and Mankato State University students.

The parents not only provide transportation, but are requested to spend 25 minutes in conference with the teacher and ild prior to the opening of school.

Yes, pre-school education is of great importance to, not only the children of today, but also their parents. Indeed things ave changed immensely in the last 121 years since Mrs. Munday's one room school!!

innesota Valley Stock Car Racing Association, Inc.

The Minnesota Valley Stock Gar Racing Association, Inc., formerly called the St. Peter Speedway Association, opened its 5th straight season on May 22. For many interested racers, it is the equivalent to the Indianapolis 500 Memorial Day Race. he track, owned by Edward "Peachy" Egli, is located in the shadows of the remains of the old Traverse des Sioux resbyterian Church where Reverend Eggleston (who wrote the "Hoosier Schoolmaster") once preached.

During the signing of the Traverse des Sioux Treaty in 1851, thousands of Sioux Indians were in the area and passed eir time playing la-crosse in the vicinity of the speed track.

In 1952, Dick Shepherd, married to Marge Seitzer and now of Mesa, Arizona, with the help of Bill MacKenzie and the te Dick Manuel, started operating the races with semi-modified cars and welcomed all drivers in the area to exhibit their kills in racing.

In 1954, the drivers and crowds expanded by joining the Minnesota Stock Car Racing Association, and started racing raight stock cars. The first officers of the St. Peter-Mankato tracks were: President – Arnie Gerber, Vice-President – Otto hadow" Bartelmehs, and Secretary-Treasurer – Pete Thorson.

The George Trimbo era started in 1956 and to the delight of many people, he took a lot of razzing for his two-way lymouth (the back looked like the front so people couldn't tell if he was coming or going) which he drove in many area arades, which resulted in good advertising. He spent many day and night meetings with businessmen, promoters and truck fficials so that the race he could appear in many tracks, county fairs, etc., in Southern and Western Minnesota.

The speedway employs approximately 25 people during the racing season with an attendance of 14,000 people which ertainly adds to the economics of the area as many of these racers come from far off places. The racers consist of semi-odified, modified, hobby, street, early model, late model cars in addition to exhibitions by sprints, motorcycles, go-carts, ini-sports, and even bicycles providing the entertainment.

Local participants over the years who have pioneered the race track in St. Peter are: Duane Felmlee, Jahn Danner, Jerry nd Earl Hanson, Shadow Bartelmehs, Bob and Earl Mayo, Bob Von Essen, Ernie Menk, Wally Carlson, Pete Thorson, Bob arter, Dick Weisgerber, and Chief Bud Lynn.

It is interesting to note some of the following firsts in the history of the speedway in St. Peter:

- 1st flagman: Bob Theurer
- 1st to have his windshield screen taken out while upside down: Pete Thorson, compliments "I didn't see him."
- 1st to clear the spectator fence: the late Gary Bonderson
- 1st to go high enough on a roll over to take down the signal lights: Clyde Hastin.
- 1st to clear all the cars from the track in one lap: Pete Thorsen (accidentally of course!!!)
- lst – last – and only clown: Rollie Heilman
- lst – last – and only "Girl Friday": Carolyn Kayser Thomas
- youngest starting driver: Bob Geldner, Jr.
- jet propane powered: Pete Thorsen
- 1st back seat driver: Gordy Gessner
- 1st hard luck trophy: Duane Wilmes
- 1st rollover: \ Bob Von Essen
- 1st Robert Thorsen Memorial Trophy given by Thorsen family to Jim Reeds

There have been many high lights at the Speedway throughout the years with very few low points. This, I think, points out the tremendous efforts that have been put forth by all concerned. The most important God Bless – of all things considered, is that there has never been a death or maiming accident at the St. Peter Race Tracks. May it continue!!!

The Minnesota Stock Car Racing Association Inc. has proven to be a great asset to the community, not only economically, but each year for the past several years they have been responsible for the $800 fireworks display, enjoyed by thousands of people, wrapping up the annual St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July picnic.

St. Peter Tile Company

The Carlson brothers, Ed A. (Gus) and Frank A., started the St. Peter Tile and Sidewalk Company in the year 1902 on the corner south of St. Mary's where the Weisgerber (Jim and Dick's grandfather) buggy paint shop was located prior to the turn of the century. The property now houses the Erickson's Family Shopping Center loading zone and parking lot.

Prior to Hallett's opening the sand and gravel washing plant on North Third Street in the late 1920's, the sand for making tile blocks, curbs, and sidewalks was hauled by the well-trained wagon teams of Huey and Jim Brogan. The sand, taken from the east bank of the Minnesota River below the Security Hospital, was a stone's throw from the caves where Jessie James was said to have quartered his horses prior to the great Northfield bank robbery in 1876.

The late Charlie Meyers (John Meyers' father) owner of the caves, would point out the remnants of Jessie James horses to the tourists.

Your friendly milk man and mail man can vouch for the many sidewalks still in use with the St. Peter Sidewalk Company name embedded in each square. The cement blocks, manufactured by the Carlson's, was used for the foundation of the St. Peter Armory as well as many barns in the area such as the late Frank E. Wolfe's large barn in Traverse.

The late professor George Anderson, son-in-law of (Gus) once related to me in one of our freshman English classes at Gustavus Adolphus College, that one of his most interesting experiences was making tile with the Carlson's, Ed Drenttel, and Carl Anderson.

One of Gus Carlson's greatest achievements was making the bricks for the Carlson home on 803 South Minnesota where Dr. Haedt's home and office are now located.

In 1947, Ed Drenttel, who worked for the Carlson's for many years prior to his leave of absence from 1919-1940 to work for the Engesser Brewery, joined with Alvin Nelson and purchased the business from the Carlson's.

In 1953, Ed's son, Clifford (Tishy), who has spent 32 years in the service in the reserves and World War II, joined him as owner of the firm and the name was changed to the St. Peter Tile Company. Ed and Tishy are proud of the fact that the 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 inch tile manufactured, if placed end-to-end would reach across our country (coast to coast) four times, and the plastic tile sold by the company would cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Ed recalls the days when the late Sheriff "Tip" Witty worked as stripper (taking tile out of molds) for the company. Erickson's family bought the Drenttel property in 1972 and erected a new family shopping center. That same year the business was sold to Keith Connor who built a 2,776 square foot plant in Traverse township on Highway 22.

The Connor's have recently completed a 2,970 square foot addition to be used as storage and for a new steam curing machine that will increase production by 50%.

The tile company presently employs nine people with Keith as president; wife, Dorothy, as vice president-secretary, sons, Steve and Dan also work in the plant.

Through the combined efforts of the R & I Drainage (Roger and Ilene Jaycox), Keeley & Davis Drainage, Don Jaycox Pump Company, and the St. Peter Tile Company in business, a lot of water has and will continue to flow through the tile.

t. Peter Industrial Development Corporation

The first land development took place in St. Peter in 1854 when Captain William B. odd (founder of St. Peter) and William and Oliver Ames incorporated the St. Peter nd Company. Each member of the company was issued a free lot with the pulation that the owner must build a home on the lot. Captain Dodd led the way building the first home located at 100 W. Chatham and Front, now occupied by Earl Hanson Family. The company sold 500 shares of stock at $10 each. Later on 1856, the charter fixed the capitalization at $100,000 with the power to increase.

St. Peter's First Settlers
1813-1862
Captain and Mrs. W.B. Dodd
Captain Dodd Homesteaded the land north of Broadway, and built the first home on St. Peter's townsite in 1853.

In 1866, the enthused citizens of St. Peter subscribed $7000 to purchase 210.9 res of land south of St. Peter which is now known as the State Hospital Campus.

Industry was foremost in the minds of St. Peter leaders in 1868, according to the Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee issue, as the St. Peter Land Company donated 00,000 towards the construction of the Old Southern (Winona and St. Peter Railroad), w Chicago-Northwestern Railroad.

The St. Peter Community showed its concern for education when residents bscribed $10,000 and donated 10 acres of land to resettle Gustavus Adolphus llege at St. Peter. This was done despite the two-year grasshopper plague.

The City of St. Peter has helped, aided, and assisted business and industry extending 99-year leases on city property on the banks of the Minnesota ver from the time of Sackett's Flour Mill 100 years ago to the present lessee's – Mayer Soft Water, St. Peter Feed Mill, and st of the St. Peter Creamery.

In the late 1920's, the city fathers granted permission for Hallett's Sand and Gravel to operate on North Third. Many of generation remember swimming in Hallett's deep, cold pit prior to the City construction of the Lindenberg Pool in the e 1930's. In 1955, the late W.E. (Bill) Francis was instrumental in behalf of the St. Peter Industry's foundation to purchase old Engesser Brewery from the Land O' Lakes Creamery to house Donlin Manufacturing (now called ADC Products).

The Chamber Board in 1963, aware of the competition for industries appointed an "IT" committee consisting of the late Daun, the late Hugo Carlson (former Chamber Manager), and Z.S. (Sam) Gault which resulted in the forming of the St. ter Development Corporation. The officers of the first board were: J.J. Daun: President; Sam Gault, Vice-President; Ellery terson, Treasurer; and W.M. Gustafson, Secretary. In 1964 the Corporation was granted permission to sell $10 shares for purpose of incorporating.

Since the St. Peter Development Corporation was organized, St. Peter has seen some of its golden years with the velopment corporation purchasing land and buildings for resale for the following: A.D.C. Products, Inc. (4 additions); rthland Ski (now owned by A.D.C. Products, Inc.); Alumacraft; Northwestern Bell service building; Cargill, Inc.; Inter-strict Special Education Cooperative School; Walter Brothers Construction; Minnesota Highway Department building; City St. Peter well site; Hendrickson Organ Company; and the Donahue properties (96 home sites on the Daun property).

The present officers and directors are Jerry Lager, president; Tom Komatz, vice-president; Ellery Peterson, treasurer since 64; W.M. Gustafson, secretary (former president); Z.S. Gault (former president); Ray C. Olson; Greggory J. Woods; Lyle brecht; Neil Freeberg; William C. Pell; Ted Olson; Tom Stienessen; Jim Sandeen; and Robert Wettergren, recording cretary.

The efforts of this non-profit development corporation has provided thousands of jobs, payrolls in the millions, and creased property evaluations over $2 million. The future looks very promising for the community and for the development rporation.

Jamar Industries, Inc.

St. Peter's newest industry, Jamar Industries, Inc., is located at 1511 Gault Street in what is known as Lower Traverse or Traverse des Sioux. The name Jamar is derived from the names of the owners, James Pierce and Bob Martin.

Jim was born, reared, and educated in Mankato, having attended the public schools and Mankato State University. Bob, a native of Glencoe, arrived in Mankato 13 years ago and gained his apprenticeship under Cecil Jones of Jones Metal Products as did Jim. Bob was employed in the purchasing department and Jim was production engineer.

These two young energetic men formed the Jamar Company in a building located on Highway 169 south of Mankato.

The first products manufactured by the firm were patented shower brackets, while the second job was stamping and miscellaneous welding for Oscar Helling at G.T.O. Enterprises.

Jim and Bob, once operating on a shoe string budget, now employ 25 dedicated employees with Gary Andersen, the first employee hired, as the plant superintendent. The fast growing company expects to double their employment by 1978. Jim proudly points out that none of the employees were lost in the transition from Mankato to St. Peter with two employees already having moved to St. Peter.

In Jamar's expanding efforts to service customers and provide technical engineering assistance for their customers, they have opened a Minneapolis-based office which is handled by Les Schultz of Minneapolis.

The Jamar Company's experienced workers in metal, principally use hot-rolled steel along with aluminum and stainless steel, In 1977 the firm expects to use 2600 ton of steel in making "panelizer bin systems", elevators, seed plants, feed mills and all types of custom fabricated products. A 200 ton press has been installed to bend the sheets of steel for manufacturing.

The company's largest customers are coop elevators with the Cargill Company the largest single customer having built plants for them in Texas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Inquiries for Jamar products have come from as far away as Cape Hope, Africa; and the Philippine Islands. The firm has done work for companies in Mankato, as well as G.T.O. Enterprises in St. Peter and other firms in the St. Peter area.

Jamar sales grew from $6000 in their first year to $600,000 in 1975, thus necessitating a new building. The new building was planned for Lime Township near Mankato in Blue Earth County. However, after six months of frustration, disappointment, and costly delay, the Blue Earth County Commissioners rescinded their zoning approval, leaving Jamar with an "Inland Building" ready for shipment from Alabama with no site. David Heath was contacted by Jim and Bob as to the availability of land in St. Peter. After a quick trip to St. Peter, and meeting with the city-clerk administrator and Jerry Lager, President of the Development Corporation, the building was shipped to St. Peter and placed on the twelve acres purchased from Floyd and Audrey Boucher.

The 16,020 square foot building with 24 foot sidewalls and a 30 foot peak is designed so it can be expanded to 150,000 square feet under one roof. The building constructed by Fuller, was started the second week of April and the Company moved in, ahead of schedule the last week of June.

This beautiful building stands in the shadows of the once Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church, built in 1851, and four furlongs from the signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1862 which gave the United States 24 million acres of land, one of the largest parcels of land since 1776.

Jim and Bob worked with well known sculptors and artists including Dr. Paul Granlund from Gustavus Adolphus College and Arnold Gruter of Mankato State University.

The Bob Martins' family lives on Lake Washington, rural St. Peter. The Martins' two boys are currently attending the St. Peter Public School. Bob and his family are very happy with their relocation in St. Peter.

Jim, wife Melanie, and two-year old twins are planning to join the Martins' on Lake Washington next spring. Jim will build an all steel frame house that can be put together in two days. The self-designed house features steel from the footings to the roof. The house is plumb square end level so the contractor need not take the tape measure from his pocket. Jim states, that after testing and evaluation, they plan to market the line in lumber yards.

Jim and Bob said that countless cities in a radius of 50 miles made offers for them to locate there when they were turned wn by the Blue Earth County Commissioners. It has been ably stated that Mankato's loss is St. Peter's gain!!!!

idwest Electric Products, Inc.

Midwest Electric Products, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of General Electric, was started by John P. (Jack) Habinger, nuary 1, 1946. Jack, as did his good friends, Lloyd Johnson and Warren Denison, now deceased (founders of Johnson eel), began operation in his basement and garage. In mid-year of 1946, Jack realized the fact that more space was required take care of Midwest Products, and relocated at 1515 North Front Street across from where Hager Manufacturing is cated.

Jack, a native of Mankato, gained his apprenticeship prior to Midwest, by working for E.W. Owen's Music Company as a ilio serviceman, Southern Minnesota Supply Company as a machinist, and as a purchasing agent for the late Cecil Jones of to Engineering.

The firm, in its embryonic stage, had that family touch with Jack's wife, Evadene, and brothers, Art and Bill, as the First mily. Later sons, John R., Gene A., and sons-in law Duane Newbauer (sales manager) and Oscar Helling (now owner and esident of G.T.O. Enterprises in St. Peter) joined the group.

The following additions were added to the plant at the former location: 1948 – 2400 square feet, 1950 – 3000 square et, 1958 – a two story building consisting of 20,000 square feet, 1962 – it was necessary to purchase the building presently cupied by D.M. Printing Company. In 1965, the ever growing Company expanded to a 2000 square foot building across alley where they installed a degreasing unit complete with a conveyor system that passed over the alley to the main ant. This new system enabled the Company to increase production by 40%.

In 1968, Midwest, having outgrown the Kato location, built a com-pletely new plant off Highway 22 midway between St. ter and Mankato. The new facility consisted of 60,000 square feet of manufacturing facilities and 6000 square feet for ice and cafeteria on the second floor. In 1970, a 36,000' square foot addition was built to take care of the growing demand Midwest products. Jack engineered Midwest's last addition in 1972 when a 18,000 square foot facility was added to commodate the new plastic molding equipment.

The new plant, in addition to having its own water and sewage disposal system, is serviced with 5000 amperes supplied Northern State Power, Northern Natural Gas supplies the firm with gas for heating and processing.

The original product manufactured by Midwest Products was a line of current transformers and remote control switching vices used to control flood lights or any other electrical equipment from a number of remote points. The main application this unit was controlling yard lights on farms and ranches.

In 1948 a line of weather proof boxes wore made with 60 amperes. Each year more units and items were added to their e up to a capacity of 400 amperes.

Midwest products are distributed throughout the United States and Canada through manufacture representatives and in rn electrical distributing houses. On-time delivery is accomplished through a series of six regional warehouses.

Midwest Electric Products, Inc., is proud of the fact that all of the exhibitors at FARMFEST '76 were connected to the dwest Electric outlets. Many of the original products are still the backbone of Midwest sales. Recently introduced products e: air conditioning disconnect switches, stand-by power transfer switches, and a line of swimming pool power centers with ne switches to control the filter pump and pool cleaning cycles.

Inventors Johnson, Denison, and Habinger worked together at Kato Engineering before entering business for emselves. Midwest has fabricated many parts for the highly prized Johnson Real.

On October 5, 1973, Midwest Electric was sold to General Electric with Jack staying on as consultant for three years. esently, Jack, in addition to being a Director of the American State Bank, has an equipment leasing business called abinger Incorporated" with the offices in the old First National Bank Building in Mankato which he purchased in 1974.

Upon acquisition by General Electric, Paul Way, via the way of Connecticut, became the vice-president and general manager. Charles "Chuck" Smith, employee and Community Relations Manager who hails from Chicago is proud that half of the 150 full-time employees are from St. Peter and the other half are from Mankato.

The people in the area are indebted to Jack Habinger, now retired, who built a successful business from a basement-garage operation to a 30-acre spread.

Yes, a lot of water has gone over the dam since Jack's grandfather, as a boy, watched steamboats travel the Minnesota River.

Dave's Mobile Home Repair & Manufacturing

Dave's Mobile Home Repair & Manufacturing, owned by Dave and Marion Jacobsen, is located on old Highway #169, a stone's throw from the Historic Traverse des Sioux Treaty Rock.

The property, once covered with sandburs, produces the sweetest watermelons ever raised. I must confess I never thanked the Dranttel's and Wilsons for their generosity which they were probably completely unaware of.

Dave, as I remember, lived in the next block as a youngster and worked nights and weekends for Joe Casper's (Mrs. Joe Norman's father) Rolling Pin Bakery, now known as the Sugar 'n Spice Bakery.

Dave was the envy of all the kids at Lindenberg Pool when his Uncle Glenn "Jake" Jacobsen would thrill the spectators with his acrobatic dives from the three meter board. Jake was the pool manager for twenty years before becoming custodian at the North Elementary School.

Dave earned his apprenticeship under the tutelage of Mel Hager, Hager's Manufacturing, where he learned the art of cabinet making. From thence he was employed by Suburban Homes until the firm was sold in 1969.

In 1969, Dave entered business for himself by using his basement, kitchen, and garage for the manufacturing of campers. In a short time the firm outgrew his home facilities and in 1970, a five-year lease was obtained from George Dranttel for the remodeled former Dranttell Market Building.

The Jacobsen-labeled camper toppers are sold within a 100 mile radius of the St. Peter area. Dave is particularly grateful for the loyalty and support of the local auto dealers who have given the firm a great boost since starting in business.

Dave was convinced he could build a better mobile home skirting than was being manufactured so he expanded his operation to include the skirtings that are now a major part of their business.

The firm uses 6000 pounds of pre-painted aluminum per month in addition to 2 X 2's which are tile principal materials used in the construction of the covers for campers.

Dave says, that his company works very closely with his neighbors (the Rollaroom Division) located in the Jamar Building. The Rollaroom Division builds Rollarooms for mobile homes.

In 1974, the Jacobsen's purchased the former Mueller Implement Building and plans are now in the hopper for a 20'x 60' addition for manufacturing. A 50' x 150' building for a factory outlet is planned for the future adjacent to the present factory outlet on the six acres recently purchased.

The pride and joy of Jacobsen's manufacturing is the machine they built specifically for the manufacturing of mobile home skirtings. The Jacobsen skirtings are distributed throughout twelve states by the Storm Anchors, Inc. out of Tracy, Minnesota.

In addition to transferring and relocating mobile homes, the firm carries a complete line of accessories and supplies. This inventory is in the neighborhood of $35,000.

Presently, Dave and Marion employ seven people with Ken Magers, the first employee, as the shop foreman and Mel Raggow, another long time employee, as the office manager.

Dave says, "It was no secret that the so called gas shortage a few years ago hurt the recreational business, but the ompany made a speedy recovery and expects a great future for the firm".

Dave has a very strong feeling of doing business to please the buyer and not just for the money. He says sometimes this oesn't make for a large pay check to live on, but making others happy is also important. Just ask him! Dave likes St. Peter nd will do all he can to make it a happy city to live in. Dave says, "Thanks for your business".

orseland General Store

The Norseland General Store, 11 miles northwest of St. Peter, was built and began operation in 1858, the same year that innesota became a State and four years after the founding of St. Peter. It is owned and operated by Roger and Linda wanson.

I must admit a bit of nostalgia prevailed when Jake Campbell and I, out on the Chamber Membership Drive, took the ort Road – the road I traveled thousands of times while living in Traverse Township. This road was also the same trail my randpa "Bill" Pell took to Fort Ridgely when he delivered the mail by horseback over 100 years ago.

We turned north at Alan Burg's to head for the Doug Schultz and Owen and Howard Swenson farms for a quick call. I ointed out to Jake the Bi-Centennial sign erected marking the New Sweden Creamery, the place where Sam Haugdahl hurned the butter that won the "world's Championship" in Paris, France. (Sam was the first non-European to accomplish e honor.) Upon visiting with the Swenson's, I learned that their ancestors were patrons of the Creamery at the time and oward and Owen are still in the dairying business.

Upon arriving at the Norseland General Store, we found Roger and Linda Swenson as busy as mosquitoes in a nudist amp, "They didn't know where to start". We did learn that the Norseland Store is the only Country General Store left in the ounty with the exception of Art Schuck's Oshawa Store.

The Store had its beginning when John Burke built the main building with additions of the egg room, hardware room, nd storage facilities coming 100 years later. John was succeeded by sons Henry and George. Roger's father, Emil, became a artner of Henry until Henry's death in 1939 when Emil (E.A.) became the sole owner.

Roger and brother, Warren, gained their apprenticeship working in the family store until World War II when they ntered the Armed Forces. Warren, after his service stint, located at New Auburn in a General Store before moving to Kasson here he engaged in the same business until becoming a real estate broker.

Roger and Linda purchased the Norseland General Store from Emil (E.A.) in 1950 and with sons, Randy and Jeff, make p a payroll of 14 people. The store and Tri-Ag, in addition to several new buildings, took over the Norseland Creamery omplex with Milt Johnson operating the locker plant. I am sure many remember the locker plant started under the auspices f the late Harvey Parsons when he was buttermaker at the creamery for most of his career. Other businesses in the orseland hamlet include Larry Anthony's gas station and feed operation, Ray Anthony's machine shop, Dewane Leafblad's hain Saw Sales and Service, and Bob Widdifield's Norseland Window Company.

The General Store in the early days, sold buggies, McCormick Deering machinery, and Ford cars until 1927. Roger esitates to estimate the number of items presently carried, but includes, groceries, harnesses, lamps, salt, feeds, gas, seed orn, soft goods, hardware, and the Lord only knows what's in the warehouse.

The store, housing the only egg operation in Nicollet County, is one of the few remaining egg plants still operating in e State. A hundred thousand eggs are processed daily coming from flocks ranging from 10,000 to 47,000 birds that are nspected monthly. The eggs are run through a machine that washes, candles, and grades them before they are packed with e points down by several ladies who are adept in their work. 90% of the eggs are graded "AA" which means they come om certified flocks. The inspectors use the Howe method to determine the height of the yolk of the egg which must meet andards. During World War II most of the eggs were shipped by rail and truck to Massachusetts and New York, but today e nearby cities and Twin City area purchase the supply.

The Norseland hamlet is blessed with two beautiful churches in their midst, the Scandia (Swedish) Lutheran and the orseland Lutheran which also has a grade school in conjunction with the church. These congregations of over 100 years, ontain the descendants of the founders, many being fourth and fifth generations.

I am told that steamboats, loaded with immigrants, would dock at the Wainwright Landing on the Minnesota River until the Henrietta became stranded in 1897 because of low water. My grandpa heretofore mentioned, said he would meet the boats by carriage and would transport the Swedes to New Sweden, Irish to Lake Prairie, Germans to West Newton, the Norse to Norseland, and Traverse got what was left over. No doubt he transported many of the ancestors of the hearty people of New Sweden and Norseland.

On September 22, as a guest of the Nicollet County Farm Bureau, I had the opportunity, with 40 Norwegian farmers, who were here for the FARMFEST, to visit, pray, sing and eat at the Glenn Annexstad, Owen Swanson, and Gordon Rodning farms to learn the American way of farming. To my amazement, I found that many of our Norwegian friends belonged to the same service clubs and fraternal organizations as I so naturally we had to compare notes.

Roger is a Director of the Nicollet County Bank and the St. Peter Savings & Loan Association. Sam Gault, President of the Nicollet County Bank, stated, "Roger's rural background and business knowledge is a great asset to any financial institution."

Roger summed it up when he said, "We have fertile land, excellent farmers and wonderful people which makes it a great place to live. As long as we have these attributes there will always be a NORSELAND!

Pleasant View Farms

January 20-29 has been designated as “Pork Week” in Minnesota. In token of our appreciation for pork producers, this may sound like the “Three Little Pigs” fairy tale, but it is only fitting that we should write about how a local 4-H farm boy converted a school teacher’s (Howard Nelson) daughter into a successful partner in a hog operation 3-1/2 miles northeast of Norseland.

Gary and Pat Davis started in 1962 with five sows, 40 acres and a son (Jeff) born in November. A year later they rented 160 acres and increased their sow herd to 13.

In 1964, the farm operation expanded with the purchase of 140 acres, increasing the sow herd to 26, and increasing the family with the birth of a daughter, Jennifer. At this time Gary and Pat decided that a family of one son and one daughter was sufficient to handle their hog operation.

The Davis operation had its trials and tribulations in 1966 when the whole herd was devastated by cholera. Gary's parents gave moral support and advice in their time of need. Gary and Pat started all over again by purchasing 23 purebred gilts on the day of Christmas Eve of the same year.

In 1967, they rented another 150 acres and slowly increased their sow herd to the existing inventory of over 200.

In 1969, they purchased 17 purebred gilts from their much admired neighbor, Martin Annexstad, Jr. Incidentally, Marty was selected as a Minnesota Livestock Hall of Famer in 1976. The Davis' converted a former dairy barn and an old chicken coop into farrowing quarters for the sows.

The Davis’ building program started in 1972 with a building with a nutrena open front finishing floor followed by adding sections in 1973 and 1974. In 1974 they built their first farrowing house which was a Lester Prairie building with 24 compart stalls in it along with an open front gestation house.

The same year, the old dairy barn was converted into a nursery barn. In 1976 the Davis operation expanded with a second Lester Prairie farrowing house and a 26 stall compart unit was put into operation.

Ventilating fans run constantly circulating the air throughout the hog barns. Electricity is essential in their operation with an automatic alternator operated by propane recently installed that kicks in seconds after the electricity goes off.

Presently, their schedule consists of 50 sows due to farrow every 52 days for approximately 350 litters a year with an average of 8.3 per litter. After 39 days the piglets are weaned leaving 13 days for washing, disinfecting, and repairing in readiness for the next litter. Incidentally, they have their own complete vaccination program.

The boars, used in a 1-5 ratio, are purchased locally from Dick Compart, Chester Gunderson, and Lloyd Michels, and are anged every 18 months to gain new strains. The Davis' feel by buying locally, they not only get a good boar, but cut own the chance of disease.

Pat and Gary sell most of their hogs to Doug Pyan of Hormel as they have found Doug to be an honest man and a great llow to do business with. Presently they market 2700-2800 pigs annually and finish with approximately 1800 pigs that are ld as feeder pigs to private individuals locally.

The Davis' now own 220 acres and rent another 60. They grow most of the corn used for their operation and with a 40% ncentrate blend satisfies the taste buds of the hungry hoofed mammal with short legs, bristly hair, and a blunt snout used r digging.

Plans for the near future are to farrow 500 litters a year and build a new nursery barn, gestation house, and make a rrowing house out of the existing dairy barn.

The Davis team: Gary, Pat, Jeff, and Jennifer, have built a successful hog operation. Gary attributes their success to his ife and good management. As the late Dizzy Dean once said, "If you have done it – it ain't braggin!"

iverbend Asphalt Company

The Riverbend Asphalt Company was formed by Charlie Brown, Hilding Lundin, and Henry W. (Hank) Komatz in 1969, mile south of the Minnesota River bordering Highway 22.

Old timers well remember that a few furlongs south of the Riverbend plant was located the well-known Crystal llroom, owned and operated by the late Jerry Lynch. This was the recreation center where many people enjoyed dancing the bands of Lawrence Welk, A1 Menke, Cliff Kyes, Bobby Griggs, Hank Seitzer, Tiny Little, Curtis Leverson, Dick Long Dr. Bob Long's father), and Guy de Leo. A bit of history went up in smoke when the Crystal mysteriously burned to the ound over a quarter of a century ago.

The plant was built under the auspices of it's first manager, Don Langer, to fulfill the asphalt needs for the City, County, ad contractors in the Southern Minnesota area, and joins the Babcock Company, Vetter Stone, St. Peter Well, Country Pub, ad the Holiday House as one of the largest employers in the area with an employment of 10 people.

This modern, completely automatic, Barber-Green Asphalt plant has the capacity to mix five ton of asphalt every 45 conds and a capacity of storing 450 ton of finished product which meets all the Minnesota Highway Department's andards.

Riverbend is supported by 5 million cubic yards of native Kasota gravel which is sold as far away as the Iowa border. In e past year, the company used, in addition to the gravel, 2,500,000 gallons of liquid oils. This, mixed with gravel at 300 F., oduces their finished asphalt. Would you believe it takes 1000 ton of asphalt – 1-1/2 inches thick to lay one mile of road? e plant strictly manufactures the asphalt finished product as it does not haul or lay the material. Sales have risen from 400 thousand the first year to over $1 million in 1976.

The firm purchases the liquid oil from the Southern Minnesota Asphalt Supply Company with headquarters in Waseca. rl Genz manages the above firm in addition to the Riverbend operation. Carl, a native of Rosemount, gained his pprenticeship with 19 years of experience with the "Koch Refining Company" of St. Paul prior to coming to St. Peter in 975. Presently Carl and his wife, Veronica, live at Madison Lake with two of their six children.

While thousands of people enjoyed dancing at the Crystal to big-name bands over 25 years ago, millions will enjoy aveling highways and by-passes topped with asphalt manufactured at the Riverbend Asphalt Company plant.

iniker Company, Inc.

Located in the shadows of the Mankato Municipal Airport, the Hiniker Company, Inc., a member of the St. Peter Area hamber of Commerce, began its operation in the winter of 1967 as a branch of the Ken Hiniker Farms and served as winter mployment for farm employees and part time work for the local people.

Manufacturing began in a 1800 square foot farm shop on the Ken Hiniker farm, which was purchased by his grandfathe from a veteran of the War of 1812, who was granted a land patent from the Government signed by President Abraham Lincoln on April 1, 1861, for his dedicated service to his country.

The first products consisted mainly of corn planter attachments, designed by Ken. The sales efforts were limited to ads in farm papers plus four weeks of personal contact with dealers in Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Today, their sales area has expanded to cover most of the United States from the Rockies to the East Coast.

On January l, 1969, the company was incorporated and a new building of 23,808 square feet was built for office space and working area for their permanent employees. New products were added and the first Hiniker Tractor Cab was shipped in August of 1970. Presently they manufacture several models for five major tractor companies.

Additional buildings have been built with a total capacity of 201,775 square feet to accommodate their 230 employees and compensate for the growing demand for their products. New product lines have been introduced continually since the beginning of the Company. Some of the more familiar ones are: the Hiniker bucket elevator, the Hiniker snow thrower, the ten ton running gear, and the Hiniker floating cutter bars for soybean harvest.

Ken's wife, Florence, and six sons help in the operation of the company. His wife is the vice-president, secretary, and treasurer of the corporation. Tom is in charge of the electronic and engineering department. Gary is in charge of trucking, where ten over-the-road trucks and seventeen trailers are used to transport the products from the area. Duane works in the research and development division. Ron is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota and works for the company during vacations. Fred works as a welder in the winter and helps in the operation of the Hiniker Farms, consisting of 1600 acres in Nicollet, Blue Earth, and Le Sueur counties. Dale, attending Mankato Vocational School, works after school in the plant warehouse and assists on the farm.

Department heads of the Hiniker Company, Inc. are Mike Lundon, sales manager; Dick McNea, controller; and Roger Scheurer, plant manager.

Ken recently piloted his single-engine beach craft, which he flies throughout the Midwest, to the Farm Progress Exposition at Dekalb, Illinois, and is looking forward to exhibiting at FARMFEST '76, which he Considers a boom for agri-business education.

Because of the added product lines to manufacture and the opening of new territories and dealerships, the demand for the Hiniker products is steadily increasing. The investments have made it possible to provide more jobs for the local area residents plus jobs for many more sales people throughout the United States. It is the plan of the Hiniker Company, Inc. to continue to grow. This will mean new products, increased sales and more jobs for people in our area.

The people of the St. Peter area greatly appreciate all the Hiniker Company, Inc. has done for the area.

Big John's Restaurant And Hotel

Big John's Restaurant and Hotel, known for many years as Cook's Cafe & Hotel, was started in 1904 by Tom Cook's grandparents, Andy and Grace Cook. The cafe was first located in the old Nicollet County Bank building, now occupied by Hawkins Jewelry. Cook's first operation was actually a pool hall and lunch counter where Andy was also engaged in the art of cigar making.

In 1923 the Cook's purchased the B. F. Paul property and erected a modern cafe and hotel with an apartment for the Cook family plus six hotel rooms. In 1929 the Cook's, capitalizing on their greatest assets – their children (Willie, Clem, Genevieve, and Herbie), purchased the lot to the north for expansion. The new $53,000 addition housed the J. C. Penney Company (now Ron and Dave Johnson's Skogmo's Family Store), the Cookie-Jar, and 13 additional hotel rooms – the last being #20. Cook's Hotel, like the Mart in San Francisco and other prominent buildings, has no number 13.

The dedication of the new facilities took place on November 20, 1929, with a dinner fit for a king. Andy and Grace Cook really believed in the Epicurean Theory – "East, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you may die!!!" The menu consisted ruit cocktail, oyster stew, roast turkey and duck along with oodles of other goodies. It's no wonder dancing was most come after a musical program. Dick Maltby (Carol's husband) was emcee for the event. Helen Bornemann, the Jenny d of St. Peter, favored the guests with many solos. Art Pearson, an accomplished violinist rendered several numbers owed by music from the Gustavus Adolphus students and Mankato's School of Music.

Mrs. Ben Youngdahl named the basement "Cookie-Jar" in a contest for which she received $5.00. The Cookie-Jar was scene of all social, sports, and business events of the time. Pat, Tom's mother, recalls calling all the businessmen the day he meeting to learn if they would be in attendance for dinner. Nancy Anton, Chamber secretary, says she only needs to 40% of the Chamber members for banquets and meetings.

Old-timers remember the New Year's Eve and S.O.S. parties held in the Cookie-Jar. Five dollars per couple on New ar's Eve included the chicken dinner, dance, and cover charge. It was an interesting place to have parties as the catacomb oths extended beneath the sidewalk. It's been said that many a fellow was pinched by the opposite sex in the sanctity of l booths.

Andy and Grace sold the business to Jule and Gladys Haney when son, Clem, entered the military. The same year Andy l Grace purchased the Dr. Sven Froberg house across from the Chamber's flower garden in Minnesota Square (Swede k). In 1945 Andy, after several terms as mayor, died in office.

Clem, returning from the service, joined Willie, Pat, and nephew, John, in the mink business started by Willie in 1934. n sold his interest in the mink ranch in 1965 when he and his wife, Sue, purchased the restaurant business and later the ok building after many operators since the Haney days.

Pat Cook, an institution at Cook's off and on since 1934, blew in during the dust bowl from South Dakota the same year. iving at the Ottawa depot via the "Traverse Special", destitute and lonely, she hitched a ride with mailman, Bill Buchanan, Gene Weber's folks farm whom she knew in the Prairie State.

Pat and Gene's sister, Mae, labored at the Minnesota Valley Canning Company, now Green Giant, for 27 cents per hour. he fall of 1934, Pat received a break when Lucille Sullivan left Cook's for a teaching position, thus creating an opening l Pat, where she met husband, Willie.

Pat lives at the foothills of French Hill on the shores of Spring Lake except during the summer when she resides at Lake onis near Paynesville. Dr. C. S. Strathern says, "Pat has no equal as a guide and hostess in the North Star State!!"

For over 30 years Cook's was headquarters for the Greyhound Bus Lines and Pat remembers when Dudley Beaumont na's late husband) was a regular driver on the St. Peter run.

Pat recalls during the historic Armistice Day Blizzard in 1940 when all the rooms were occupied and repairmen from rthwestern Bell slept on the floor of the Cafe as there was no room in the Inn.

There was the humorous side of the business, also. For instance, when "Mr. Baseball", Russ Boys, asked how old the okies were, the new waitress replied, "I don't know, I've only been here two weeks!!" Also a sign at Cook's Mink ranch w national attention. One side of the sign read "Eat at Cook's . . . the other side read, "We buy old horses and cattle."

Tom has 23 employees on the payroll that, along with his mother, he credits for his success.

Pat and Tom claim to have served many celebrities such as Halsey Hall, Vern Gagne, Harold Stassen, Cedric Adams, ty Berg, Youngdahl's, and many others. However, their greatest thrill is serving the countless patrons and friends who quent St. Peter's oldest establishment today!!!

& B Housing Accessories, Inc.

The firm's name, D & B, is derived from the owners' first names, Dick Peirce and Bill McGuire. Dick Peirce, father of Jim m Jamar Industries, is retired and is vice-president of the operation while Bill McGuire is the president of the corporation.

The firm manufactures rollahome products, which have been in existence since 1968, and is located in the north one-third portion of the Jamar building at 1511 Gault Street. Gault, Ritt, and Davis Streets are names I suggested while having th privilege of serving on the Planning Commission and City Council for five years.

While growing up, I remember the D & B area was called Traverse Des Sioux or Lower Traverse before its annexation St. Peter. The firm is across the street from the historic Presbyterian Church where the famous "Hoosier Schoolmaster" Reverend Edward Eggelston once preached.

In the mid 1930's when camping as a Boy Scout at Traverse Des Sioux Park near the log cabin, we would sit and listen to the late Henry Benson, Sr. relate the story of the signing of the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux in 1851. It was estimated tha 15,000 Indians were present and would spend their leisure time playing La Crosse. I am sure the area where D & B is located was the ideal field for the game.

Bill and wife, Mary Jane Oles, are the parents of four children. Mary Jane's brothers, Willie and Kenny, worked for our Dairy years ago and I recall the sweet watermelons they would drop off at the house that were grown in the vicinity of the D & B Housing location.

The firm manufactures Rollarooms up to 14 feet by 36 feet in 16 different colors to match the mobile homes and are used as bedrooms, family rooms sewing rooms, game rooms, utility rooms, offices, or dens. The company also constructs the Rollette (8 feet by 8 feet) up to (8 feet by 16 feet) mobile home entry ways in addition to the modular garages (single) 1 feet by 24 feet or the (double) 24 feet by 24 feet, and mini storage buildings for garages, boats, snowmobiles, lawn and garden equipment. The firm recently started building custom lake cottages and offices up to 14 feet by 56 feet. Dave Heath purchased and is located in a D & B Housing office building where the old Dairy Queen once stood.

The D & B buildings meet the Minnesota ANSI building codes and are approved in North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Number one and two fir wood is used for the construction and the insulation conforms to the cold Minnesota winters.

Bill just returned from the state fair route, manning booths at the Minnesota State Fair and Spencer, Iowa County Fair. The Spencer Fair is the second largest county fair in the U. S. with attendance reaching 80,000 to 90,000 people per day.

All materials are shipped in by truck while the D & B finished products are shipped out by D & B trucks or are picked up by their dealers from the five-state area.

The firm employs approximately 17 people: Bob Flom, foreman; Walter Thompson, leadman, Dave Auringer, assistant leadman; Steve Moncelle, framing leadman; Kim Olson, framer; and Gwyn Ploog, receptionist and office manager.

It's ironic that the sound of the hammer is gone. The company uses automated nailers, screw guns, saws, and routers i its construction.

D & B is the second oldest rollaroom company in the U.S. . . . the oldest being Vemco out of Elkhart, Indiana.

Bill says that sales have increased steadily, the future looks bright, and his company is happy that it has contributed to the growth and economy of the St. Peter area.

Farmers Elevator Of Traverse

A century ago, the Traverse area was served by privately owned elevators under the name of Steve Briggs and a competitor, George Strauch, who lived on the Ray Hergert farm. My dad recalls how the Strauch Elevator was truly operate by horse-power with a blind gray horse winching the grain into the bins. These elevators changed hands many times until the Farmers Elevator of Traverse was chartered in 1913. The capitalization was set at $20,000 with 400 shares sold at $50.0 per share.

The elevator received a charter for the express purpose of buying, selling, and dealing in farm products such as – grain, ı, seeds, cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, coal, tile, flour, farm machinery, stone, brick, and all kinds of fencing material, etc.

The first directors were William Schmidt (Norman's father) and Edwin Johnson of Traverse, Christian H. Hanson (Fred's er) and Joshua S. Nelson (Esther Ludcke's brother) of Lake Prairie, and Walter Quist of New Sweden.

The darkest day in the history of the Elevator was Saturday night, August 21, 1937, when the building was completely troyed by fire. I recall standing in front of Emil Johnson's General Store with Lyle "Bud" Gilbertson, Cliff Hanson, and the Orin La Croix watching the flames searching towards the sky when we heard two St. Peter businessmen, now deceased, ussing the "end of Traverse". However, the Elevator, like the phoenix bird, rose from its ashes to greater heights with a 000-bushel elevator erected immediately. The new elevator was the first customer of the R.E.A. (Rural Electrical ociation).

In 1956, a 50,000 bushel annex was added to the existing elevator and in 1970, a new 765' x 130' elevator was built. el bins were added in 1975-76 giving the complex a total of over 546,000 bushels grains storage. A 1500-ton fertilizer ding completes the complex.

Present directors and officers are: Gene Conlon, president; Mert Wenner, vice-president; Willard Hoehn, secretary; Ted mberg and Norb Osborne. Dave Lind, manager since 1964, is assisted by Jim Yost, assistant manager, Dave Seitzer, and ley Walter, bookkeeper.

Today shares are par value at $5.00 per share with a limit of 50 shares per stockholder with a capitalization of $120,000.

The grain for three-fourths of a century was shipped by box cars on the old Winona-St. Peter (Chicago-Northwestern) road. I remember as many as 13 trains a day going through Traverse station when Chris Motschenbacher was the depot nt. Today, grain is trucked to Cargill, Continental, and Bunge in Savage and Honeymead and Archer Daniels in Mankato.

A few of the many people who endured the trials and tribulations during the history of the elevator are: Louie Yost, Tom Don Wright, Sydney Johnson, Norman Schmidt, Sid Poncin, Ham Nelson, Louis Tostenson and countless others. nagers I remember best are Fred Jensen, Al Frank, W. C. A. Lund, Vern Kluver, and Charlie Yost, assistant manager, who ved 40 years.

Speaking of Yost, Pat and Dorothy Yost own and operate the Yost Meat processing plant in what was once the Willow vn Creamery building. The Creamery was the first organized in Nicollet County in 1890 and for over 40 years was erated by Archie Parsons and son, Lyle. Their slogan on the butter carton of the creamery was "not better than the rest, better than the best".

The center of all social, political, and business activities is Vena Parsons Traverse Cafe, where the "Traverse Rules" vail for Pfeiffer, dice, etc. Vena is right at home listening to the farmer's plight as she once managed the New Ulm vator before returning to Traverse with her husband, the late Mahlon "Mut" Parsons, to operate the cafe.

The Traverse Town Hall, in the early days, was the scene of many dances and box socials frequented, not only by ives, but also students from near-by educational institutions looking for ways to further their education.

A few rods from the Town Hall was the District 3 schoolhouse which is now located east of the Nicollet County urthouse in St. Peter and is used as offices for the County Extension Service. No doubt, the two most remembered chers at the school were Madeline Poncin Peters and Flora Ritt Baker, who were most proficient in teaching the 3 R's and cipline.

Nutter's pasture (now Jerry Kuehn's corn field) was the battle of many hard fought baseball games between Oshawa and verse in the thirty's. Playing for Traverse was Lyle "Boots" Parsons, Mahlon "Mut" Parsons, Elmer Gilbertson, Roy bertson, Harold Gilbertson, Franklin "Shorty" Pehrson, Bill Wettergren, Ray "Spit" Hergert, Chuck Frawley, and Charles st, Mgr.

I am sure "Lizzie" Yost (94 years old) and many others remember the most heroic game played in Traverse prior to rld War II. It was the bottom of the ninth, two out, when the late Chuck Frawley, (Marilyn Bresnahan's and the Frawley boys' father) hit a home run to beat Oshawa 4-3. Believe it or not, Chuck and I were already in the car waiting to go home when Kenny Burg finally came out of the woods with the ball!!!

Many are not aware of the fact that Minnesota's fifth Governor from St. Peter, Governor John A. Johnson, was born on the Enz farm in 1861. I admit to sentimentalism when writing of Traverse as my grandparents on both sides lived there; my parents were born, lived, and married there; and my brothers, Bill and Bud, and I were also born near the hamlet. My nephew Mark's children are the fifth generation to live on the C. L. Wettergren "Oak Grove Farm".

As a former resident of Traverse once said, "The sun always shines in Traverse!!!"

The St. Peter Feed Mill

The St. Peter Feed Mill, owned and operated by Lyle, Ordella his wife, and their son Randy Fjoser, is located on the "Rock Bend" less than a stone's throw from the Minnesota River on Broadway and Front. "Rock Bend" is what St. Peter was originally called in the early years.

The founders of St. Peter realized the importance of industry as far back as 1854 when Governor W. A. Gorman induce Daniel Birsall to build a steam saw mill near Dodd's Ferry where the Broadway bridge is now located. The mill was sold to Colonel B. F. Pratt in 1857 who purchased a flour mill attachment that not only milled flour, but grown corn also.

The mill burned in 1856 and a new mill was constructed on the bank of the Minnesota River at a cost of $35,000. The new owners, Sackett and Fay, pioneer families, were great uncles of the late Hilton Miller and Kay Witte, respectively.

During the past 100 years, there were many owners of the St. Peter Feed Mill. The most familiar to me were Fay & Hix, and Willie Mans, his wife, Zona, and Albert Erickson. It was during the ownership of Mans and Erickson that a new mill wa built in the late 1940's.

In 1973, Lyle and Ordella Fjoser purchased the business from the late Henry "Hank" and Imogene Holvick.

The St. Peter Feed Mill specialized in custom grinding using a roller mill for cracking corn for cattle, hammer mill for ea corn, and attrition mill for shelled corn, oats, and other grain. The mill is unique that it has what is called a grain bank service. The farmer banks a supply of grain. By phone he orders what he wants and the feed truck delivers it and augers it into his feed lots or bins.

The Fjosers also have a rental portable mill that serves the farmers in a 30-mile radius.

The Feed Mill, with 20,000 bushels capacity and a warehouse that stores 150-ton bagged feed and other supplies, is noted for the manufacture of Minnesota Valley feeds.

The mill handles a full line of Peterson farm seeds and Northrup King lawn and garden products in addition to dried fertilizers and pet foods. Water tanks, hog feeders, heaters, and fountains are sold for general livestock use.

The company is diversified with custom spraying of all farm chemicals being a big business. Four 1000-gallon nurse tanks are used to haul water and liquid nitrogen to the pick-up sprayers and highboy sprayers.

Lyle, Ordella, and Randy are assisted part-time by Mike Vogel and John Seitz, along with other high school students on the release time.

Because of the foresight of our City Fathers over a century ago, who issued 99 year leases on city-owned land on the banks of the Minnesota River, St. Peter has two agri-businesses, the St. Peter Feed Mill and the St. Peter Creamery, that have contributed greatly to the area.

it of History!!!

According to Gresham's historical records of 1871, it was noted that 26 bushel per acre was the average corn yield and was contributed to the fact that St. Peter had a lower altitude. Today the average yield is approximately 150 bushels per (a 600% increase). Gresham further stated that the notorious Captain William Dodd was cited for developing corn that s the envy of everyone to the East and West.

Here are a few statistics for Nicollet County from 1871 according to Dr. Wm. G. Gresham compared to 1975 according to gg Luehr, County Agent.

	1871	1975
Number of farms	978	846
Land in farms	40,735 acres	235,128 acres
Land in corn	3,988 acres	112,200 acres
Land in beans	15 acres	68,800 acres
Land in wheat	24,555 acres	22,500 acres
Land in oats	9,458 acres	10,600 acres
Land in hay	208 acres	14,400 acres
Land in barley	1,136 acres	100 acres
Cattle	11,000 head	41,200 head
Cows	3,300	9.100 (10,000 # milk/cow)
Hogs	2,484	68,300

Of these 846 farms today, 365 have milk cows, 93 have beef cattle and heifers, 245 have farrowing sows, 49 have eeding ewes, and 103 have poultry.

. Peter Herald

The St. Peter Herald (herald meaning to announce or proclaim) began printing in October 1884, in the building it sently occupies at 311 S. Minnesota Avenue.

The Herald building breezes an era of nostalgia to me as my grandfather, Charles L., owned and operated a butcher p in the original building over a century ago. Furthermore, my Uncle Edward A. Johnson was editor and part-owner until untimely death in 1935.

St. Peter Herald Office

The St. Peter Herald, founded by J. H. "Jim" Essler and Blackiston, was in operation about two years when the immortal John A. Johnson, staked by six prominent businessmen, purchased the Blackiston interest. John A. was born in a log cabin on what is now the Enz farm in Traverse Township. He was the son of a washerwoman and had a derelict father who was buried in Potter's Field on the Nicollet County Poor Farm. In 1904, John A. became St. Peter's fifth governor of Minnesota. Governor Johnson was prominently mentioned as the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1909 shortly before his death the same year. January 1, 1907, John A., busy with gubernatorial duties, sold his Herald interest to Major Oliver J. Quane. Quane operated as Essler's partner until 1925 when he decided to retire.

Two other papers were prominent in St. Peter, namely the St. Peter Tribune and the St. Peter Free Press. The Tribune, started at the beginning of the Civil War, was once owned by Governor A. R. McGill, Minnesota's fourth governor from St. Peter. The paper changed hands several times until J. A. Loehl (Gracia Maloney's father) purchased the paper and operated it until 1920 when the paper was purchased by the Free Press.

The Free Press, founded by H. C. Miller in 1894, was located above Mark & Jerry's Menswear store.

H. C. (grandfather of Mrs. Gene "Heinie" Weber) was state senator of Nicollet and Renville Counties and President Arthur's personal envoy to Ecuador before his journalistic venture.

In 1919, Al and Ralph Weisgerber, returning from World War I, purchased the Free Press from H. C. The Weisgerbers apprenticed in the printing trade under Miller, having worked for him prior to the War.

The biggest merger in local newspaper circles took place in 1926 when the Weisgerbers from the Free Press and J. H. "Jim" Essler and Edward "Eddie" Johnson (Norma MacKenzie's first husband) joined forces. Eddie, a Herald employee of 10 years, became editor after the merger. Eddie branded each of his children with a nickname from a funny paper character – such as Pell "Jiggs" Johnson.

The Herald's 1930 edition of St. Peter's Diamond Jubilee ranks second to the death of Governor John A. Johnson as one of the most important news items in the past century. A copy of the Diamond Jubilee today is valued as a collector's item as they are as scarce as an Eskimo in Hawaii.

Upon the death of Eddie Johnson in 1935, Wilbur "Bill" Elston took over the reins and married a local beauty, "Billie" Stege. After five years, he became associate editor of the Minneapolis Tribune before attaining a responsible position with the Detroit News where he is presently writing.

Harry Davey, a native of Sleepy Eye, succeeded Elston and was editor from 1940-47 when he purchased the International Falls paper. Harry recently sold the Falls paper and is presently residing on a farm in the Brainerd area. Emmet Hoffman, also from Sleepy Eye, followed Davey as editor from 1947-48 when he resigned to take a position in the Twin Cities.

The late Sander L. Olson, a native of Minneapolis, came down from Detroit Lakes to assume the editorship when Hoffman left and remained until his unexpected death in January 1977. In 1965, Sandy, Jim and Dick Weisgerber purchased the Herald upon Ralph's passing away and Al's retirement. Sandy's 28-year tenure was the longest of any editor, with the exception of J. H. "Jim" Essler. It's ironic that the three Swede's – Sandy, John A., and Eddie were all taken by the Creator in the midst of life.

No job, journalistic or otherwise, was too small or too large for Sandy. In community participation, he was the first to volunteer and the last to leave. Since the tree project was one of his latest ventures, the trees will always serve as a living memorial to Sandy for me.

In addition to those heretofore mentioned, others now gone who have given many years to the Herald and the community are: Al Weisgerber, Adolph Holmstead (Jim's father) – over 60 years, Walter "Bill" Moss – 20 years, Marge Haescke, Pearl Weisgerber, and Mildred Johnson (Birger's wife) 15 years.

Former employees of the Herald with long tenure were: Emmett Engesser with 26 years who is now editor, publisher and owner of the New Richland Star; Robert "Cobby" Thomas and Lora Menk retired from the Herald after 48 years and 31 years respectively; and Pearl Lynam, Flossie Bolstad and Blair Davis served the Herald for many years.

Present employees are Birger Johnson (54 years), Betty Babcock, Linda Anderson, Mary Kolb, Margaret "Peg" Sipes, Kim Olson (Sandy's son), Susan Hadac, Sharon Mans, Jerry Thun, Dick (stockholder) and Jim Weisgerber, and Jarrol Thun.

Jim, a World War II navy veteran with 38 years in the newspaper business, is the present publisher. His experience as the only known person to have served as 1st and 2nd Ward alderman of the city of St. Peter is no doubt an asset to his profession. Jim says, "I tell it like it is!!" – no holds barred!!!"

I would like to express my appreciation to Herald Publisher Editor Peggy Carlson and managing Editor Ed Lee, who e served the newspaper since August, 1995.

witt Machine & Manufacturing, Inc.

Hewitt Machine and Manufacturing, Inc. of Nicollet, located on Highway 14, is owned and operated by Larry and Lynda witt. As is the case of so many successful business firms, they started on a shoestring, having purchased the Eddie Bauer ding Shop in October 1971. Prior to Eddie's years, Tony Schiller operated a Wagon Factory and Blacksmith Shop in a lding in the heart of downtown Nicollet longer than most old-timers can remember.

Larry, after having taken a machine shop course at Mankato High, gained his apprenticeship at Kato Engineering under t tutelage of the late Cecil Jones, later becoming a designer for Univac before purchasing the Bauer Welding.

Speaking of the first years, Larry said he "Darn near threw in the towel!!!" as business was poor with little repair work. If adn't been for his wife working at the Holiday House, he wouldn't be in business today.

During the slack period, he built a pontoon and boat lift for a friend. The demand for this finished product was so great today Hewitt Machine & Manufacturing, Inc., along with GinRay Manufacturing, Nicollet Food Products, Nicollet Ag vices, Nicollet Co-op Oil, and the Nicollet Farmers Exchange is one of the largest employers and taxpayers in the Nicollet a.

Having survived the trials and tribulations of the lean years, Larry built a 6000 square foot new facility and later a 1600 are foot painting quarters.

Larry's uncle, Owen, having considerable knowledge in metal products was a great asset in advising him in nufacturing pontoon and boatlifts.

This business grew to the extent that in 1972 a 7200 square foot warehouse was purchased in Minnesota Lake. Larry and ployees disassembled the building and moved it to Nicollet where it was insulated and reassembled to be used for the shed Roll-A-Docks and Boatlifts.

Gene Selby, then of Selby Manufacturing and the son of the late Bob Selby, was selling Palm Beach Pontoon Boats and e the Roll-A-Dock and Boatlift industry was compatible, also became a representative for Hewitts traveling Minnesota, a, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin until Larry hired Jeff Voight as a full-time representative.

The Roll-A-Dock construction basic units are two 16-foot sections 4-feet wide with a non-slip 5/8" permagrid plywood k, with the deck materials shipped in from Seattle, Washington. The pontoon is dip painted and mounted on wheels with ustable and supports for stability when rolled into the water.

The all steel pontoon lift with models capable of lifting from 1000-3000 pound pontoons features a brakewinch power combines safety with durability and strength and a built-in self-activating brake assures a safer operation.

Hewitt Machine & Manufacturing, Inc. uses approximately 45,000 pounds of steel a year in their construction of the toons, lifts, hog crates and pens.

The Hewitt Gates and Confinement pens was an idea of Rodney Waden, of the BMR Pork Farm from Alden, Minnesota. construction started in the spring of 1976 with over 100 crates and hog paneling manufactured.

Ten employees make up the payroll with Larry as president and Lynda, his wife, as secretary-treasurer. John Berbrick Don Adams have been employed there the longest. Dale Krohn handles the trucking, traveling over 50,000 miles a year vering the Hewitt products.

Larry credits his company's progress to the help, aid, and assistance given him by Roy, his Dad, the late Bob Selby, wife Lynda, and banker Charlie Poncin, president of the Nicollet State Bank. Since 1971, his sales have doubled each year. In 1976, Larry was nominated from our area as Outstanding Small Businessman for the Minnesota Convention.

Hewitt's pontoons and lifts will be on display again at the 45th Northwest Sports Show in Minneapolis March 25-April 2. The firm has also displayed their products in the Milwaukee and Des Moines Sportsmen Shows.

Minnesota, to many, is known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes, but to the Hewitt family – Larry, Lynda, and sons, Danny and Troy – it is the "Land of Milk & Honey."

Holiday House

Twenty-five years ago, Ben Martell, son Jim, and their wives Marie and Norma, stood on the banks of the Minnesota River when Ben said, "Here we will build our supper club!"

According to Jim, the late Hartley Pell, then salesman for MacKenzie Real Estate, tried to convince the Martells to purchase more than one acre of land for expansion as the next time around the price would be steeper. The additional 14 acres were considerably higher later on.

Several people questioned the logic of building a supper club across from a place for "retired" cars and a stone's throw from the Hillside Club and Tommy Weber's Minnesota Club.

However, the Martells decided the beautiful Minnesota Valley endowed with its fertile land, thriving industries, and grea educational institutions overshadowed the disadvantages.

Ben vividly recalls painting the outside windows of the 2800 square foot building when "Lefty" Lutz stopped by to wish the Martells the best and remarked, "I know with your reputation and 20 years at Le Sueur in the food and liquor business, you can't miss."

The first service club party ever held was the Lions Club, who with their wives, filled the 80-seat capacity in the Kasota Room. I always felt that most of the people who attended that November evening were there mostly for the sake of curiosit and ended up taking out memberships before the evening was over.

Can you imagine a membership growth from zero to 14,000 in a quarter of a century without formally advertising for members? Growth has been influenced, like the Hershey Company, strictly by word-of-mouth.

The highlight of the dozen expansions has been the famous Japanese Garden, where pictures have been taken by customers from all over the world.

Today the Holiday House encompasses 24,000 square feet and has a seating capacity for 850 members, several who have been known to fly up from Estherville, Iowa, and other cities for the Sunday brunch.

Since the doors opened nearly, 4,000,000 meals have been served with Mother's Day as the biggest day of the year with over 2500 diners.

One hundred eighty employees make up the payroll of $600,000 and the past year's sales hit the $2,000,000 mark. The operation is truly a big business. In addition to the payroll, the firm has an electric bill averaging $4,000 and a gas bill of $3,000 monthly. The sewer charge is higher per year than the entire village of Kasota.

Dentists will be happy to learn that at the Holiday House this past year $15,000 worth of candy was consumed, in addition to 35,000 pounds of seafood, and 55,000 pounds of top choice beef.

Amanda Peterson of St. Peter and Zella Johnson of Nicollet have been cook's helpers since the first day. General managers, Bob Neiman and Jerry Gostomczik, came in 1961 and 1962 respectively.

Ray Schwegman, now Jim's partner, arrived in 1960 from Minneapolis as a bachelor, having worked for the Veteran's ninistration and part-time cook at Fort Snelling. Ray, wife Emily, and four children presently live in a very comfortable ne south of the Holiday House parking lot.

Jim and Norma will soon be leaving Prior Lake, where Harmon Killebrew was once a neighbor, and returning to St. er from whence they came. Before winter, they will be moving into their new home in Don Hentges' Riverview elopment overlooking Ray Vogel's new home and the Minnesota Valley.

Two of the Martell daughters are married – Ann to the well-known singer, John Denver, and Linda to a Gustavus duate, Kirk Nelson, now with the Federated Mutual Insurance Company of Owatonna. The third daughter, Teri, is nding barber school in Minneapolis and their son, Ben, will be a junior at G.A.C.

Many people have fond memories of the Holiday House over the years, but no one enjoyed the place more than my nephew, Steve. It was the Dairy's last delivery of the day and somehow the Holiday House garlic toast was always in way . . .

Jim and Ray attribute the success of one of our area's largest and most famous business to the employees' dedication to the millions of satisfied customers.

RBI - Radio

KRBI-Radio (A.M. & F.M.), with the studio at 1031 W. Grace Street (the Old Fort Road), hit the airwaves in 1957. The ion, first owned by Twin City concerns, had trouble getting off the ground.

In 1959, Don Seehafer and Bob Johnson, cousins from Marshfield, Wisconsin, with rural backgrounds and noted athletic eriences, left the Marshfield station to accept the challenge that laid ahead of them in St. Peter.

Arriving in St. Peter with very little capitol, mountains of faith, and unlimited intestinal fortitude, they moved on the ne at KRBI and lived in trailers on the KRBI campus.

In 1961, when KRBI set up a studio in Le Sueur, Bob and his family moved to the Valley of the Jolly Green Giant to d up the operation.

In 1969, the Seehafer-Johnson Corporation purchased the W.O.M.T. station in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Don, very active in St. Peter Chamber, Lions, and Church, moved to their new acquisition to take charge.

The missionary zeal was embedded in the minds and hearts of several KRBI employees over the years. John Aasen, nouncer and KRBI's first engineer, moved his family to Ethiopia where they were missionaries for ten years. La Mar Hay, mer announcer, news director, and Mayor of St. Peter, was ordained an Episcopal priest in the Church of the Holy nmunion. La Mar is now a priest in the Diocese of Florida.

Bob Burt, former manager of the St. Peter station, was active in C.C.D. instructions and had his band play at several St. er Catholic Church bazaars. Bob is now a salesman for the Seehafer-Johnson station at W.G.E.Z station in Beloit, sconsin.

Ben Jakel, announcer while in St. Peter, was an active reader at St. Peter's Catholic Church and was commentator for the istmas Eve Masses for several years over KRBI. Ben is now at W.O.M.T. Gene Converse, announcer, worked for KRBI for en years is now at Station W.X.C.O. in Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1977, Ken and Judy (Fierke) Lundberg, returned from Wausau to St. Peter (from whence they came) to head up the Peter operation. Judy is sales representative in the neighboring community. Ken, a former Minneapolis Marshall High ool "Outstanding Athlete" award winner, is now the voice of the Golden Gustie Hockey Team.

Bob Johnson, general manager of KRBI, is active in the Le Sueur Rotary Club, Chamber, and the Lutheran Church wher he taught Sunday school for a number of years. Bob's family has acquired the love for radio also. Wife, Lois, is music director for KRBI and has stated that as of February 1, she will be updating the music format with a more rounded variety. Son, Rick, keeps stats for Bob during the "play by play" of athletic events and hopes to do some announcing in the near future. Daughter, Tami, works part-time as typist and hopes to follow sister, Dawn's, footsteps in radio.

Completing the staff in St. Peter is Bob Salm, news director; Bill Rau, engineer and nighttime announcer; Brad Kissell, afternoon announcer; and newcomer Tim Allen, morning announcer.

Officers of the Corporation are Don Seehafer, president; Bob Johnson, vice president; and Ray C. Olson, secretary-treasurer.

KRBI, with reports of people picking up the station as far away as Red Wing and Worthington, continually strives to increase the depth of local, state, and national news along with their extensive sports coverage. Bob stated, without the leas equivocation, that the greatest listening audience in KRBI's history was the Le Sueur Girls' Basketball State Championship game, St. Peter football teams – State runner-up and Champions, St. Peter State Babe Ruth Champs, and the St. Peter High School State Class AA Baseball Champions.

KRBI is a member of the ABC National Network that produces Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford, and Paul Harvey. I had the privilege of talking to commentator Keith Jackson and baseball star Reggie Jackson in Hawaii when they were there for the Super Star events. This past summer I also met Howard Cosell and Frank Gifford at Met Stadium just prio to the Viking-Dolphin game. Gifford, who trained with the New York Giants Football Team at G.A.C., remembers St. Peter well, especially the feed the Chamber put on for the Giants at the Shoreland Country Club.

Seehafer & Johnson, with rural backgrounds, realize the importance of agriculture and thus sponsor the Dick Rogers' Farm News Report three times daily.

KRBI, along with the St. Peter Herald, provides services that cannot be measured by monetary value along. The station provides immeasurable services to the entire area with school closing announcements, weather reports, Know your Community, Swap Shop, etc. Probably the most significant service was during the devastating floods of 1965 and 1969 wher the City of St. Peter, on the verge of serious destruction to homes and property, was constantly kept informed by KRBI.

The St. Peter area and KRBI have both equally benefited when the two country boys from Wisconsin cast their lot in St. Peter.

Johnson's Locker Plant

The Norseland Locker Plant, leased and operated by Milt and Lavonne Johnson, is located among the tall Norwegian pines, 10 miles northwest of St. Peter on Highway 22.

The locker plant, built and first operated by the Norseland Creamery Association, was sold to the Johnson's in 1958 when the Creamery ceased taking in milk and the feed business became a part of the Tri-Ag operation along with Rush River and Arlington.

Prior to coming to Norseland, Milt was the manager of the Cloverleaf Creamery locker plant at Baudette, Minnesota. While there, Milt not only did custom butchering, but steaked thousands of walleyes at ten cents each.

When ice fishing on the Lake of the Woods, Milt and several friends nearly met their Waterloo when the differential on their car froze and they walked several miles to an island for firewood. Needless to say, the fire was as welcome as the excellent fishing.

The Johnson's love for the North Woods is evident as they own an 80-acre farm north of Bemidji where the Clearwater River crosses their land giving them access to excellent fishing, hunting, and vacationing.

During my visit to the locker plant, I recalled my one-third century in the dairy processing plant with the humming of mpressors, the whiff of ammonia, running of water, and the penetrating cold of the coolers and freezers.

Today the Johnson's rent 150 six-cubic foot lockers, holding up to 200 lbs. of food, to the residents of the Norseland a.

In 1958, when the Johnson's came to the area, they butchered mostly hogs compared with beef being the number one at processed today. Milt says that today's hogs are much leaner with only half as much fat as formerly. The beef herds ve improved vastly with fewer old dairy cows on the market because of the depletion of the herds.

Johnson's, like Yost's, have a great clientele from as far away as the Twin City area along with the neighboring town and al residents.

Milt proudly admits that his daughter Donna, now married to Dale Selby (owner of Wildlife Taxidermy in Nicollet), was excellent plant worker before her marriage.

I have been curious for years as to why butchers Rube, Jay and Everett Seibert, E. C. "Tiny" Mouritsen, Curt, Jack, and ne Leverson, and Mac Miller wore leather cuffs while butchering and trimming meats. The answer is two-fold. One to ep the long white shirt sleeves clean and, more importantly, to guard against knife wounds.

I have enjoyed many church dinners at Scandia and Norwegian Lutheran Churches and have been equally impressed h the Norwegian costumes worn by the workers of the Norwegian Church as with the delicious food served by the ladies the churches.

When returning home, I passed the old Norseland softball diamond where the rivalry between the Norseland and New eden 4-H teams equaled the Traverse-Oshawa baseball rivalry. Ogden Olmanson of Norseland 4-H was the pitching great h Warren Rodning from New Sweden and Les Peterson from Bernadotte as his nemesis in the late 1930's and early 40's. pe the old-timers come out of retirement for the Co-Ed Softball tourney in Minnesota Square on July 4 for the 1978 dependence Day picnic.

Meryn Lokensgard, Minnesota Farm Bureau president, says that a few names have changed over the years, but as for the ditions – no!!

iles Lunak Shoe Repair

Miles and wife, Ann, arrived in St. Peter from our neighboring city of New Prague at the height of the Depression in 31. In number of years, Miles is the oldest self-employed businessman in St. Peter.

His shop was first located in the old Al Potts' Plumbing Shop building now occupied by the modern V.F.W. Club arters. The rent, although only $15.00 per month, was hard to come by during hard times. (My mother roomed upstairs in Potts' building while going to high school and was jarred awake many times from her sleepwalking as her feet touched cold Potts' floor.)

Miles and three brothers learned the trade under the tutelage of their father in the early twenties. His brothers never rsued the vocation.

The local procrastinators gave the Lunaks but six months in business with Andrew Adolphson, the Hartmans, Paul Sr. & and Nels Olson well established in the trade.

In the mid-30's he relocated in the old green Walter building on Nassau Street for 13 years where Dr. Lambert, the terinarian, practiced. Mark & Jerry's Menswear parking lot now occupies the space with Dr. Strathern's old office building ated across the alley to the west.

Bud Bartlett, prior to his 42 years with the military, apprenticed under Miles as did Ivan Spoors, who became a cobble at the State Hospital.

Old-timers recall Saturday nights at the shoe shop getting shined up for the hop at the Armory, Crystal Ballroom, or Hardegger's Pavilion at Lake Jefferson. The latter two dance halls were mysteriously destroyed by fire.

Those early years, according to Miles, were the scenes of farmers bringing their eggs, cream, and other produce to tow before the crack of dawn. Barbers of yesteryear, Augie LaCroix, Art Overson, Lloyd Gould, Russ Zabel, Speeder Gilham, an Jimmy Welsh would open accordingly to catch the rural business.

In 1948, Miles, Ann, and their two children, Miles, Jr., now at Multifoods, New Prague, and Marjorie (Mrs. Ken Mayer, J at Watertown moved into their new building at 422 S. Minnesota Avenue. The shop is on the ground level with living quarters upstairs. Ann passed away in 1960 after having been Miles only partner since coming to St. Peter.

The most notable change in the business has been cowhide replacing horsehide due to the decline of horses. Despite the inflated cost of hides and materials, Miles uses the best grade of hides, linen, cotton, and silk threads depending upon the job.

Miles says that he has repaired shoes, boots, binder canvasses, luggage, athletic equipment, and zippers on women's corsets.

Charles Rost, well-known harness maker in the 20's and 30's, quit sewing harnesses by hand and prevailed upon Miles to do the work by machine.

Many people have inquired why he doesn't train an apprentice. Miles says, "The answer is simple." Recently 20 person enrolled in a Vo-Tech School to learn the trade. Three graduated and only one went into the business."

Miles and Dorothy, who he married in 1964, enjoy camping and fishing in their leisure time. They have fished most Minnesota Lakes, several Canadian, and even the ocean with enthusiasm. He alludes to the fact there is a skill or knack to the sport of fishing.

He feels strongly that there is a place for small shops, such as his and his friend's, the late Hank Galles' Welding Shop, in the business world today.

High School Students View Business

Recently the U.S. Chamber made a study as to how high school students view business. Here are some of the shocking results:

1. 67 percent see no need for profits.
2. 62 percent think government should provide jobs
3. 40 percent could not name one advantage of capitalism over communism
4. 61 percent felt a worker should not produce all he can
5. 50 percent felt governments contribute most to national prosperity
6. 55 percent think the best way to improve our standard of living is not by workers providing more, but by giving workers more wages

Minnesota National Guards

While attending the recent Memorial Day services in Minnesota Square under the auspices of our great service organizations – the American Legion, V.F.W., and Auxiliaries, I decided to research the military history of St. Peter.

The first volunteer militia, under the command of Captain William B. Dodd, was remindful of Paul Revere's famous ride ing the Revolutionary War as it was in August, 1862, when Dodd recruited 140 volunteers to march to New Ulm to end the City against Indian attacks. History states that Dodd was mortally wounded and died in the arms of his close nd, Dr. A. W. Daniels, at the Dacotah House. Dr. Daniels, according to Robert Ripley's column, was the first person west ne Mississippi River to administer chloroform. Dodd's grave, at the rear of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion, qually decorated on Memorial Day as those of other servicemen and women in any cemetery.

In 1861, Asgrim K. Skaro, for whom Skaro Street and Skaro Addition is named, was approved as Captain of Company E t. Peter by the Secretary of War. According to the St. Peter Diamond Jubilee of 1930, Skaro fought in both the Indian and l Wars, being killed in action near Nashville, Tennessee. His funeral at the old Episcopal Church was the first military eral ever held in the village of St. Peter.

During the Spanish-American War in 1898, some of those who served are Major O. J. Quane, Frank Magner, John C. hker (Chuck's great grandpa), John Frey, and Charles Kayser (Babe's gramp). In 1916, several volunteers served in the --Mexican War. Quane, Al Weisgerber (Jim and Dick's uncle), and B. M. Cosgrove are names often mentioned.

Prior to the building of the present Armory in 1913 at a cost of $30,000, the Company K drilled in the hall upstairs in the Conville Building which today houses the Embassy Bar. Ed Drenttel (Tishy's father) remembers the drills and marching on tember 21, 1909, in Governor Johnson's funeral procession from the train depot to the Presbyterian Church and on to eenhill Cemetery.

During World War I, William R. Witty, Sr. of Oshawa was threshing on my folk's farm in Traverse when he received d that his son, Bill, was missing in action. Dad, having been confirmed with Bill in 1908, had many fine memories of . The William R. Witty American Legion Post No. 37 is named in honor of Bill and, according to Post Adjutant Larry mstad, will be opening its new addition come fall.

Clifford "Tishy" Drenttel, who retired from the military after 33 years and is presently the maintenance engineer (janitor), lls when Captain Cliff "Duke" Nutter (Barb Dybvig's father) headed the National Guards from 1921-1941 along with 1st utenant Harold Frey, who served 40 years, and 1st Lieutenant Carl Benson.

As later during the Korean Conflict on January 6, 1941, the local unit, Battery B, was called in, trained, and housed in Armory. The unit was sent to Camp Haan, California, before being stationed at Kodiak, Alaska, to guard against the sion of the U.S. by the Japanese.

Karl Klein was Battery Commander from 1947-51 until the local unit went to Korea. It was during his command that the Peter Unit won the covetous Eisenhower Trophy at Camp Ripley.

Robert T. Junge is presently full-time administrator having succeeded Harris Johnson in that capacity. Harris is presently Sergeant of the Unit and is the old-timer since the retirement of Chief Warrant Officer Bud Bartlett who served 42 years. Neary is the other full-timer and serves as mechanic.

Those with 20 years or more in our local guards are 1st Sergeant Bernie Thieman, Skip Keller, and Duane Peterson delia).

The National Guards are also a vital economic contribution to the St. Peter area with 70 men receiving a combined roll of $138,000 annually. The Guards train one weekend a month and 15 days a year at Camp Ripley. Robert Junge mated $400 a month is spent locally for food and incidentals.

The new proposed $750,000 Armory received harmonious support from the City, County, State, and Federal ernments along with the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, V.F.W. Club, and Auxiliaries. The new ory will be located north of A.D.C. on city property and is scheduled for construction in 1979 with completion in 1980. can readily anticipate the use of the new Armory as the present Armory, once the hub of community events, still ses the Head Start program of the Minnesota Action Council along with Junior High Basketball games, dances, etc.

Over the years, St. Peter has had its share of military academy graduates namely: John Hezlop, John A. Lundeen, William ey Brown, the Johnson brothers (Frank and Arthur), William Nutter, and Clyde Jones from West Point. John B.

Kneip, Herb Haase and Jack Dranttel graduated from the Navel Academy at Annapolis while Lee Hollingsworth and John McCellan from the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Full Colonels that come to mind are Francis Seitzer, Norman Edwards, Dick Clark, Ted Moline, and Dr. B. P. Grimes. Ca you imagine how proud the Charlie Nutter's were when Charles the "Village Smithy" closed his shop so they could attend graduation of their son, Bill, at West Point? Bill retired with the highest rank of any St. Peterite – "Major General".

In closing, let us be ever mindful what the National Guard has done for us.

Nicollet Ag Services

Wayne and Kathy Cornish (the Cornish name being synonymous with Vernon Center) became part of the Nicollet Community in 1967 when Wayne was named plant manager for the Custom Farm Service, a division of Cities Service Oil Company.

In 1973, Wayne and Kathy purchased the operation and changed the name to Nicollet Ag Services. Nicollet is named after Jean Nicollet, an early French explorer, who surveyed the Minnesota River Valley nearly 140 years ago. Many Nicollet natives feel the town should have been called Zinsville after Mayor Paul, whose ancestors came to the area in 1857.

The Cornish Ag Plant is located on the west side of Nicollet off Highway 14, a few rods from the Nicollet Conservation Club, which is located on Swan Lake. One can easily recognize that the Ag plant is in the midst of the world's richest farm land when you see 35 white cylinder-shaped anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks lined up side by side to serve the farmers in the Nicollet area. In addition to the tanks, the company has a three-wheel flotation liquid sprayer, six dry bulk spreaders, 1 ammonia tool bars, trucks, tractors, and a hopper-bottom semi to haul fertilizer from the rail site at Judson.

Wayne finds the commercial radio very practical and useful in keeping in touch with tractors and trucks in approximately a 10-mile radius area thus saving time and rendering better service.

Fall seems to be a busy time as 85-90% of the fall fertilizer materials is custom applied according to the soil compositio based on soil samples.

Products handled by the Ag services include dry bulk fertilizers, anhydrous ammonia, big grain feeds, custom feed seeds, 28% liquid nitrogen, pesticides, Ag chemical equipment, and liquid starter fertilizer.

The ten acres where the plant area is located consists of a complex or building. A modern 30 ' x 40' office building is the central point of the total operation. In 1973, a 50' x 85' fertilizer warehouse and blending plant and a 32' x 72' chemical feed warehouse were constructed. In 1975, a 40' x 100' area to be used as a maintenance shop, car wash, and a heated chemical storage room was added. Finally in 1976, a 50' x 60' area was added to the fertilizer warehouse and blending plan

Assisting Wayne and Kathy in their operation of delivering and custom applying any or all of their products and testing the soil are Dave Holmin, Mike Mans, Roland Kettner, and Connie Anderson, secretary.

In appreciation for quadrupling their volume since its purchase in 1973, the Company throws a yearly party with a ban refreshments, and outdoor barbecue highlighting the event.

Nicollet and St. Peter, besides being in the same county and athletic rivals for many years, share the Inter-District Schoo Lindenberg swimming pool, Community Hospital and Health Care Center.

The industries and institutions in St. Peter are grateful for the number of employees from the Nicollet, Cleveland, and Kasota areas. All contribute to the prosperous area in which we live.

ollet Farmer's Exchange Company

he Nicollet Farmer's Exchange Company, a corporation organized in 1911, has a history of being the survivor of three tors and a feed mill located in a cluster adjacent to the Chicago-Northwestern tracks in Nicollet.

n 1911, the first Board of Directors consisted of J. C. Bruns, chairman, Henry Enter, Oscar Swenson (former State or), John Michels, Leo Schaefer, Louie Kettner, and A. P. Anderson, who was director, secretary and manager from 1936. The Company started with 101 stockholders at $50 par value with a limit of two shares. Today there are 75 holders with a limit of 10 shares.

n March 8, 1911, the Van Dusen Elevator Company, one of the local elevators, was purchased for the amount of $3250 $100 down payment. On March 18, the Farmer's Elevator purchased what was known as the East Elevator for the sum 550 and moved the elevator to the present location.

was interesting to learn that the first transaction was the purchase of a wagonload of flour from the St. Peter Roller (the price was the same as paid to Hubbard Mill of Mankato). The elevator, in the same year, contracted for 200 tons of coal, 400 ton of soft coal, and a carload of bran and shorts.

n 1927, the Farmer's Elevator made their final acquisition by purchasing the Atlas Elevator for $6000 (the building now for their present location).

he same year, Fred Volk, Herb's father, disassembled the old East Elevator and a 50' by 60' warehouse was built at a of $1000 for storing flour. Today the warehouse is used to house chemicals and fertilizers. The Company sells feeds, , fertilizers and liquid nitrogen.

n the 66 years of operation, the Elevator has had but three managers. The first was A. P. Anderson (1911-1936) who d at a salary of $75.00 a month. Ted Giefer followed from 1936-1970 when Gary Poncin (fourth generation of Poncins) over from Traverse where he was second man in charge.

ary is assisted by Virgil "Dood" Grunst, Mark Zins, Duane Asleson, and Mary Voeltz who is the bookkeeper and market ter. Gary has many ties with St. Peter, one being that his wife, Rita, is the daughter of Richard Bresnaham, Nicollet ty Treasurer. Gary, Rita, and their two children, Becky and Paul, enjoy living in the village of Nicollet and feel there will s be a Nicollet as long as there are farmers prospering in the area as they are today.

n checking the present Board, the names of Lester Otto, chairman, Harold Asleson, vice-chairman, Elmer Kettner, r Krohn, Arden Stolt, Henry Enter, and Oliver Martin appear. Elmer is the son of Louis, and Henry is the grandson of who was on the first Board.

1948, the present feed mill was built and a feed warehouse added in 1957. The elevator complex now has a storage ity of 230,000 bushels, which includes the steel bins.

n leaving the elevator premises, Dood Grunst, a ball player in Nicollet for many years, reminded me of the old ball ond, which was located back of the depot next to the elevator. How could I forget as that was the site of many hard-t games during the Nicollet-Traverse-Oshawa-St. Peter era (the old Bi-County League).

llet Oil Co-op Association

he Nicollet Coop Oil Association is a historic organization dating back to 1926. The records show that many of the of directors and members of the organization come from families that have been in the area for at least three ations.

he first board of directors included the names of R. S. Thompson, Fritz Monson, J. H. Mertz, Carl Muenchow, J. C. N. D. Schons, Henry Sinn, J. H. Maurer, and A. W. Dallman. Officers were: J. C. Bruns, president; R. S. Thompson, vice president; J. H. Mertz, treasurer, and A. W. Dallman, secretary, who served for 32 years. F. W. Rau was hired as the first manager at a salary of $150 per month with the board willing to go as high as $160.

Capital stock was set at $15,000 with business starting when 10% was subscribed. Before the end of the evening meeting, $1,900 was pledged.

The first annual meeting in 1927, with Wm. Mans presiding, showed sales of $13,815.72 and expenses of $1,891.61. Twenty-percent dividends were paid to patrons for the year totaling $1,861.22.

In December 1928, C. R. Poncin, Charlie and Sid's father, father-in-law of Pete Peters (director 1927-1967), and grandfather of Jerome Peters (current president) was elected president of the Association upon the passing of Wm. Mans.

N. D. Schons, the second manager of the Association, was hired in 1929, the year beginning the Depression. That same year a 400-gallon tank was purchased for the new $1,050 truck. Sales reached a new high in 1930 showing $65,859 with $8,536 in dividends being distributed and business expanded to the extent that a second tank truck was purchased with Ca Muenchow as driver, later to be succeeded by Rueben Thompson at a salary of 50 cents per hour.

In 1933, the height of the Depression, two new trucks were purchased at a cost of $580 plus trade-ins. However, all salaries were cut 15% excepting the secretary and the bookkeeper, who were on a volume scale.

The Association expressed their appreciation for the use of the Nicollet State Bank Boardroom by presenting bank president, Ed Johannes, with a box of cigars. That same year, R. M. Thompson (Thompsons heretofore mentioned are Russell's relatives) was hired as manager. R. M. was followed by Ray Mayer, Bernard Michels (36 years—26 as manager). Le Magers (26 years—3 as manager), and Dwayne Dauer, present manager.

The Association is located on 3 acres just northwest of Nicollet off Highway 99 and is now headquarters for four bulk gas trucks, an L. P. truck serviced by Midland, a 40,000 L. P. storage tank, and a self-service gas station. The Association prides itself for not being married to any particular suppliers. The Coop handles diesel fuel, oil, grease, batteries, and offers on-the-farm tire service to its customers in a 35-mile radius.

Other presidents not heretofore mentioned were R. S. Thompson, Richard Johnson, Pete Juberian (a director and president (1934-1958), and Fred Hanson, the seventh president. I recall Pete, Bob's father, as president of the old North Star Baseball League in 1939 when Oshawa reached the semi-finals in the State Tourney. It was only natural to call the league North Star after the North Star Creamery, Schuck's North Star store, and the North Star School in Oshawa where my mother taught 65-years ago. The name Fred Hanson means a lot to me as my dad and I always stopped to see Fred at the Nicollet County Fair when he was winning the Purebred Shorthorn ribbons. The Richard Johnson name was also familiar as the Johnson's lived up the hill from my Uncle Walton Pell's (now Dr. Don Olmanson's farm) in Traverse Township.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that J. J. Diedrick retired in 1975 after 25 years as bulk tank driver and John Hopp retired in 1976 after 19 years as driver. The records also reveal that the ever famous Paul Zins, now Mayor of Nicollet and part owner of Zins Hardware & Implement, was a tank truck driver upon graduation from High School in 1959.

Recently, a 200 square-foot addition, housing the self-service quarter's controls and new additional office space, gives the Association a total of 794 square feet.

Jerome Peters heads the Association. His mother, Madeline Poncin Peters, was my first-grade teacher over a half centur ago and was responsible for my first whaling in school as I autographed the freshly painted "biff". Unfortunately my brothe squealed and I got two more whippings at home . . . one from dad, who was on the District 3 School Board, and a worse one from mother, a former teacher.

Walter Wilking, retired farmer and father of Bob (4th generation of Wilkings in the area who works in the Nicollet State Bank), serves as vice president. Paul Bjorklund (3rd generation in the area) is a director and secretary. Paul is also town clerk of the New Sweden Township Board.

Other directors are: Stanley Braun, a hog, cattle and grain farmer in the Nicollet area; Herbert Wels, 3rd generation hog grain farmer in the area; Maurice Norell, 3rd generation in the New Sweden area who is a farmer and supervisor of the Sweden Town Board. Maurice's father was many years on the Association's board. Mel Voges, 3rd generation grain, and beef farmer in the Courtland area; John Kettners, son of Leon, is a hog and grain farmer and of the 3rd generation ettners in the area; and Martin Annexstad, Jr., another 3rd generation hog and grain farmer is a past president of the nesota Hog Producer's Association.

1976 was a banner year for the Coop Oil Association of Nicollet listing sales as $1,495,600.09. This is a long way from first year's sales of $13,815.72.

In addition to their patrons, officers, and directors, Dwayne Dauer, present manager, credits the following employees for biggest year ever, 1976: Mary Val Giefer, office and assistant bookkeeper; Wally Lynn Engel, driver; Robert Poehler, er; Alloyd Schilling, manager of L. P. Gas Service and driver; Donald Otto, Farm Tire Service, and Gary Hulke, part-time loyee.

As the old saying goes, "You've come a long way, baby!!!"

hawa Elevator

The Oshawa Elevator, located 2 miles northwest of Art Schuck's North Star Store, is surrounded by the richest farmland ad anywhere.

The Elevator, started before the turn of the century, was previously known as Van Dusen, Atlas, and Peavey before the hase by Cliffford "Skip" and Wendell "Booger" Wenner in 1967.

By habit, I traversed the historic Old Fort Road, passing the farms of Chamber members Don Gardner, Bob Meyer III, er and Clem Leonard, and Gene Wenner before turning left on County Road 13, thus viewing Lloyd Seitzers before ing at the Oshawa Elevator. I couldn't help but wonder how a $50,000 tractor would look pulling a 16-row corn planter ging satellites if the O.S.H.A. (Occupational Safety Health & Accident) law would be enforced. Oshawa (Indian name) uld not be confused with the O.S.H.A. agency.

The Meyer name and Oshawa Elevator are synonymous as Howard was born in the big white house next to the Elevator 70 years ago. Howard's father, Henry, was the operator of the Elevator from 1917-1933 and Howard from 1933-1967.

The Oshawa Elevator, as the Traverse and Nicollet Elevators, was located on the Chicago Northwestern tracks, which at time was the principal means of transportation. Howard was known in elevator circles as a barley man and purchased ey from as far away as St. George. Most of the barley was sold to the Rahr Malt plant at Shakopee because of the and for this mellow barley.

The Depression years are well remembered as Howard said that Mike Kennedy sold a full double wagon box of corn $2.45 and men were begging to shovel coal for 25 cents a ton.

Gasoline engines powered the first elevator and it was during the use of the second elevator that electricity replaced ines. The present Elevator, built in 1935, was known as Peavey until it was purchased by the Wenners in 1967 to be used storage as their purchase agreement stipulated they couldn't purchase and sell grain for five years.

Since the purchase, Wenners have installed a 30,000 gallon L.P. tank for drying, a motor truck scale up to 60-ton capacity a 70-foot deck, 36,000 bushel grain storage tank, drying system, and two big 9500 bushel overhead hopper tank ems. The Elevator has a storage capacity of 100,000 bushels, and rents 200,000 bushel storage space in addition to the derson Elevator that is also used for storage. Wendell and wife, Marlene (bookkeeper since 1967), bought out Skip's rest in 1973.

Loyal Koenck, who previously managed the Huntley Elevator, is the present manager and is assisted by John Emick and Wendell's brother, Ken, who handles the trucking.

On the way home on Highway 99, I paused at the little red school house where my mother taught the Boys (Russ), Bresnahans, Mans (Marion Hallander), and 30 other some 60 years ago. A few miles down the road, I passed what was the Frank Swenson pasture where Oshawa, with the Juberians, Boys, Burgs, and Buts Yost, beat our Traverse baseball team 4-3 in 12 innings and went to the State Tourney at Shakopee in 1939.

Unfortunately, we farm boys, playing in pastures, didn't have O.S.H.A. to inform us that manure is slippery when wet – we had to learn by hit and miss.

Hats Off To The American Farmer

Did You Know???

** Only 19 percent of your take-home pay is spent on food compared to 20 percent in 1960 and 22 percent in 1950.

** In contrast, the Japanese spend over 30 percent of their take-home pay on food and the Russians spend from 30 to 50 percent.

** The impact of agriculture and agri-business on the Minnesota economy is significant; more than 40 percent of our State's wealth is a result of agriculture.

** The American farmer produces more than 25 percent of the world's food.

** The American farmer feeds more than 40 people, with some estimates as high as 50 people.

** Over the last 25 years, agricultural output has increased more than 400 percent.

The Peavey Company

The Peavey Elevator, located in East St. Peter, Le Sueur County, was known as Van Dusen and Atlas in the early days.

At the turn of the century, the elevator was managed by the "Old Timers" such as Art Evenson, Ed McGrath, Mike Dempsey, and John Garvin. St. Peter's only local-born Governor, John A. Johnson, appointed Evenson to the duties as a full-time member of the Board of Grain Appeals with the State of Minnesota.

No doubt, the most remembered manager in Peavey history in St. Peter was Bill LaCroix, brother of Leo (Doc) and the late Augie (whom many know as "Frenchie" the barber). Bill, a St. Peter native, faithfully served the elevator in the neighborhood of some 40 years.

As Bill LaCroix's name remained synonymous with Peavey in St. Peter, the Heffelfinger name was the same with the parent company in the Twin Cities. Old timers remember "Pudge" Heffelfinger as an All-American football player at Yale University from Minnesota, who was a relative of the Peavey Heffelfingers, while our generation remembers Marcus Heffelfinger, a halfback on the University of Minnesota football team.

Locally, most people associate Peavey as a purchaser of grain, distributor of feeds, seeds, fertilizer, and approved chemicals. However, the Company is truly diversified, as it is a food and specialty retail company. Peavey produces flour, flour-based food products, along with grain merchandising, commodity brokerage, and commodity transporting.

Before the use of natural gas, the elevators, lumber yards, and Hobart Coal Company relied heavily on coal sales to supplement their businesses. However, the coal business went up in smoke after 1934. When Jerry Nicholson was manager in the 1960's, the last of the coal was sold.

The Peavey Elevator survived the ravages of the mighty Minnesota River during the floods of 1963 and 1969.

The 1963 flood was the most costly and devastating to the local Peavey Elevator as they lost $300,000 in chemicals and ain, leaving the Elevator resembling the "Leaning Tower of Pisa".

Through their experiences, the Peavey personnel were ready for the 1969 flood. Having shipped everything out of the ildings, they prayed the dikes would hold.

According to Dick Tracy (not the detective) but the manager since 1970, the capacity of the present elevator is at 0,000 bushels with several other buildings used for chemicals, seeds, and so forth.

As I sat in Dick's office, I was disturbed to see the train whiz by the closed depot and elevator as all the products are w shipped by trucks. Believe me, the vibrations from the train would have kept even old Rip Van Wrinkle awake.

Assisting Dick Tracy in the operation of the elevator is Jean Kaston and Bill Rosenfeld.

Floods have come and gone, but Peavey has survived all the trials and tribulations with flying colors.

he Wisdom Of Big Brother, III

Pity the poor Navaho Indian who was ordered by the Government to install a two-way intercom in his mine . . . even ough he works it alone. He's as perplexed as the Portland employer who was told that 15% of his two secretaries and one ookkeeper must be of minority extraction. Then there's the small businessman who was fined for having too many fire tinguishers. In Chicago, they confiscated a batch of rubber squeeze toys . . . for squeaking too loudly.

The head of meat packing operation recalls being ordered by one Federal agency to put an opening in a conveyor line, d being ordered to close it by another federal agency. "We have been told by various federal agencies to provide smooth d rough floors in the same area, salt and not salt the same area, paint and not paint the same area, and so on."

Those are just the petty frustrations. Get into the excesses of the environmental protection movement and you make the g time. The snail darter (a small fish) has stalled a $116 million dam in Tennessee. The Furbish lousewort (a useless weed) ocks a $600 million hydroelectric power plant in New Hampshire. And a $3.5 billion coal-fired power plant in Utah was crificed on the altar of the blackfooted ferret and the kangaroo rat.

So far, no one in the bureaucracy has tried to make his horse a consul . . . but I expect it soon.

This bizarre behavior is certainly reminiscent of the eccentricities of history's mad Kings and Emperors. And yet it ccurs - - - with increasing frequency - - - right here in the democratic, middle-class U.S.A.

In the words of Bert Lance, director of the President's Office of Management and Budget, "We consistently talk about vages' and 'prices' being the causes of inflation. (But) the most serious perpetrator of all is government itself.

t. Peter Well Co., Inc.

The St. Peter Well Co., Inc. located on a 6-acre plot on Highway 22 two miles south of St. Peter, just a stones throw from iverbend Asphalt, is owned and operated by the Ed Flower's family.

Ed, a Cleveland native, served six years apprenticeship under the watchful eye of the late George Spiess and Harold eanuts" Coulter of the Spiess & Coulter Plumbing Firm.

Ed and wife, Clara, purchased the St. Peter Well Company, Inc. from Vern Lohse in 1962 and received a big boost when ey were able to receive an S.B.A. loan through the First National Bank.

Their first wells were dug with the old spudder cable method that required six weeks of hard work to complete one well, compared to today's rotary method and carbide drill bit, operated by a 235 H.P. diesel G.M.C., which can complete a well in one day.

I can well remember the old "spudder cable drill" as a youngster when the late Ed Freeberg dug a 213 foot well on my dad's farm in Traverse. Incidentally, Ed's son, Gordie, today is selling well-drilling rigs that average approximately $100,000 each.

The St. Peter Well Company, Inc. has a water truck, a pump service truck with derrick, a shop truck for plumbing, a gravel truck for sewer work, a pick-up truck, and a 17-foot backhoe – the biggest to be put on a tractor. Most of these are housed in two buildings, 40' x 60' and 36' x 66'.

The biggest job undertaken by the Flowers' firm was for Bachman's Greenhouses in the Air Lake Park Development near Farmington, Minnesota. Ed says they sank a ten-inch pipe 440 fee deep that pumped 600 gallons of water per minute under 100 lbs. of pressure. The job was completed in a week. In the Nicollet, Le Sueur and Blue Earth Counties where mos of the work is done, the average well is 240 feet. The deepest well was 700 feet on a farm near Jordan and the shallowest was 55 feet (the law requires the minimum to be at least 50 feet).

The wells in our area are dug through sand, gravel, clay and shells, better known as glacial drift. The bits have drilled through logs and seashells 180 feet down. The carbide bits are unusually good for approximately 800 feet of drilling before being replaced. The 2000-foot steel pipe used yearly, runs 5 5/8 inches in diameter and _ inch thick. The U.S. Steel pipe purchased through the Linsay Brothers in the Twin Cities has tripled in price over the last four years.

The Flowers family enterprise consists of Ed as president, wife Clara as secretary-treasurer, and sons, Arno and Elwood, and son-in-law Jim Volk as vice president.

Although most of the wells and septic systems in years past were done for farmers, the trend has changed with country living. Today 65 percent of St. Peter Well's business is for private homes and remainders for farmers.

The septic systems pre-cast tanks are usually 1000 gallons for the average home with 100 feet of perforated pipe laid on a gravel base acting as a sponge. Ed says the grass over the pipe is really a lot greener as the roots reach a depth of five fee The septic systems are inspected by the Planning and Zoning administrators of the various counties. In 1978, every well will have to meet the inspection of the Minnesota Department of Health regulations.

Ed with a journeyman's plumbing license, hooked up most of the Kasota homes from the main to the house.

The Company keeps one crew busy with pump maintenance with the sale of 100 pumps yearly varying in size from 1 horse to 5 horse.

The Flowers family endured the sweat, trials and tribulations and credits the Small Business Administration for the lift that put them on their feet.

Tri-Ag Services Of Norseland

Tri-Ag of Norseland, located on Highway 22 just 11 miles northwest of St. Peter, is in the midst of the land of lutefisk dinners, smorgasbords, and Christmas fairs sponsored by the Norwegian and Scandia Lutheran Churches.

Tri-Ag Services operate out of the former Norseland Coop Creamery (established in 1896) and the adjacent land. The Creamery reached its pinnacle during the operation of the late Harvey and Jane Parsons along with Gus Annexstad, who was secretary for nearly a half century. Hundreds of 4-H's remember all the meetings and activities that took place in the Creamery Hall built in 1930.

In that same year, Norseland, Rush River, and Arlington continued their feed business by merging under the Tri-Ag name. The Norseland locker plant, part of the Norseland Creamery complex, was leased to Milt Johnson, well known for his custom butchering.

In addition to the Creamery, the complex at Norseland consists of a 30' x 50' feed shed built in 1965 and a huge 86' x ertilizer and blending plant erected in 1973 with a capacity of 1800 ton.

To meet the needs of the 650 farm members who reside in the area from Green Isle to Mankato, the following chemicals used for blending: 0060 potash, 18-1460 dia-amonia phosphate, 4600 Urea, and 0440 phosphate.

The farm members apply 75% of the chemicals with Tri-Ag spreaders, consisting of two custom spreaders used for ular products, six pick-up sprayers, four high boy sprayers used mainly for spraying corn with drop nozzles that run een the rows, and 61 anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks.

In addition to chemicals, the Tri-Ag offers field spraying, aero-spraying, Land O' Lakes and Farmland feeds, tires, truck service, and leases 10 hammer mills to its patrons resulting in 300% gross sales since the merger.

The Tri-Ag Service keeps its members posted on new chemicals and changes in older ones with annual winter meetings.

Assisting general manager Leonard Norrander and plant manager Pete Fischer are Clarence Schoeb, Steve Rodning, and man Grams.

In the historic hamlet along with Tri-Ag Services are Roger Swenson's Norseland General Store, Milt Johnson's Locker t, DeWane Leafblad's Chain Saw Sales and Service, Bob Widdifield's Norseland Window Company, L. R. Anthony, Inc. ds, R. L. Anthony Welding and Repair, and two beautiful churches heretofore mentioned.

A year ago a busload of Norwegian farmers and media stopped at the Glenn Annexstad, Owen Swenson, and the don Rodning farms while returning from FARMFEST '76. The Norwegians were aghast at the site of the large farms, mous machinery and rich soil. This, along with the Scandinavian hospitality and delicious food, caused the chartered to run two hours late. I was happy to have been amongst them.

st Meat, Traverse

Yost Meats, owned and operated by Pat Yost and wife, Dorothy, is located next to the Traverse Cafe (Vena's) in the quiet let of Traverse just three miles northwest of St. Peter on Nicollet County Highway 15.

The Yost plant was once the Traverse Willow Lawn Creamery, which was the first creamery in Nicollet County and was ed on the edge of the downtown business district of Traverse. Johnson and Johnson's Grocery Store was located just of Vena's where the Floyd Brinkman's now live, with Lyle Parson's Tavern and Barbershop, featuring Jimmy Welsh as ocal barber, being a bit further north. Chris Keltgen's Tile Factory was on the south side of the Traverse Metropolitan ium. Across Highway 15 along the old Chicago-Northwestern Railroad was located the Traverse Elevator, which is still , and the Traverse Shipping Company. South of the tracks was the old depot and the Village Blacksmith shop, the last hy being Curtis Noyd.

The closing of the Willow Lawn Creamery in 1950 was Yost's gain as the Creamery, like many others that closed at that , contained a boiler, refrigeration systems, and coolers that were suitable for custom butchering, processing, and sale of t.

Pat, the third generation of Yost's from Traverse Township, is a grandson of Xavier Yost, who lived a shouting distance Governor John A. Johnson's parents, Gustav and Christine, before they moved to St. Peter.

Pat learned the meat business under the auspices of seasoned butchers, Tony Wolle, Gerhardt Schmidt of Nicollet, and rence Marso of National Foods of St. Peter.

In 1952, Pat and Dorothy borrowed five grand on the signatures of brother Raymond "Buts" Yost, brother-in-law Bob eney, and Uncle Pete Walters in order to purchase the creamery and buttermaker's house on the 1 acre plot. Soon eafter, they opened for business.

"Dutch" Weber was Yost's first customer with brother "Buts" being the second. Today customers motor from as far awa as the Twin Cities to purchase Yost's meats.

Daughter Linda and son-in-law Steve Gibbs, along with Don Zins, assist Pat and Dorothy in the making of sausage, the curing of hams and bacon, the processing of beef quarters and side pork, and the dressing of 80 deer this past year. Meats, that are sold but not processed at Yost's, come from the John Morrell Company of Minneapolis and Dunlop's of Mankato.

It was noteworthy to learn that the hams are pumped with brine for nine days, then soaked in fresh water before being bagged and hung in the smoke house at a temperature of 137 degrees to the center of the ham for three days while beef is aged for twelve days before it is ready for the table.

I picked an opportune time to visit Yost's as my friend, Don Ryan, the Funk Seed Corn dealer, was picking up several carts of recently butchered meat. I was lucky enough to be the recipient of a package of delicious mouth-watering steaks.

Memories flashed through my mind of the welcomed cream days on Mondays, Wednesdays, the Fridays when brothers Bill, Bud, and I would hook a ride to the District #3 School. The Parson's, Archie and son Lyle, were the buttermakers and operators of the creamery for over a half century and would assign each patron a number for their cream cans that would correspond with the sample bottle for the butterfat test.

My gramp, W. A. Pell, was the largest patron when the creamery was built and, therefore, was assigned number 1. Othe patrons' names familiar to many were Albert Miller, secretary for many years, – #6; Fred Hanson, Sr. – #8; Tom Wright (Jim's father) – #11; Franklin "Shorty" Pehrson – #13; Fred Powers, Sr. (Fritz's father) – #15; C. A. Wettergren – #16; John Moline – #18; Ben Young – #20; Carl Lindberg – #23; John Hergert (Don, Ray, and John's father) – #31; Vern Johnson – #34; William "Buffalo" Schmidt from Buffalo, New York (Norman's father) – #37; Laurie Leonard (Clem and Roger's father) – #41; Bob Leonard – #42; Albert Yost (Pat and Buts' father) – #43; Bud Burg (Alan's father) – #44; John Fox (Lyle Parson's father-in-law) – #45; Fritz Baumberger – #46; and Al Hergert – #49.

I can still see Fritz Baumberger carrying his shotgun cans to the creamery. It has been said that Fritz unloaded 800 ton coal from the box cars to bins at the Traverse Elevator and could skin a muskrat in 25 seconds.

Pat's cousin, Eda Zwinggi, told me that when her father was treasurer at the Creamery, patrons were paid in cash. He would pick up the cash at the bank in St. Peter for payday. Needless to say, Eda and Lois (Zwinggi) Wetherby's mother, ha many a restless night for the fear of fire or burglary of their home.

Pat, an ardent golfer at the Shoreland Country Club, is learning the game of Pfeiffer at the Traverse School of Technology (Vena's Cafe) under the tutelage of Bud Wettergren. His closest friends are confident that he will master his tut in due time.

Contrary to the public opinion that Traverse is a quiet, sleepy hollow, Pat says, "If it hasn't happened in Traverse – it ain't gonna happen anywhere!!!"

In Traverse, the weeping willow no longer weeps, but the card losers do!!

Zins Hardware & Implement

Zins Hardware and Implement, located on Highway 99 or Third Street in Nicollet, Minnesota, is owned and operated b Paul Zins and his Uncle George Zins.

Zins Hardware and Seitzer Implement of St. Peter are the only two implement dealers remaining in Nicollet County.

The Zins Firm was started by John C. Zins, whose parents settled in Granby Township in 1857. Grandpa John was a w driller and grocer before entering the hardware business just before the turn of the century. The timbers used in the construction of the old hardware building are from the Nicollet Village old water tower frame.

Grandpa John was also a livestock buyer in the early 1900's and shipped by rail many carloads of stock from the old t until the Nicollet Shipping Association was organized. For all John's efforts, he closed his books with a deficit of 00.

Many baseball games were played near the depot and elevator back in the late 1930's and early 1940's. I remember ng one game where there were at least seven Zins on the Nicollet line-up. During those years, there were also several ss, Heidemans, and Schucks sprinkled in the line-ups.

Zins Hardware sold Waterloo Boy tractors before the purchase of the company by John Deere. Paul and George have in possession one of the oldest John Deere contracts extending back to 1899.

The firm sold many threshing machines, binders, mowers, plows, and cultivators in the embryonic years during the nt of modern machinery. Zins Hardware also sold DeLaval cream separators and milking machines since they were first The days are gone when farmers used separators and now sell whole milk. The separators now ornament many lawns ad.

In 1927, upon the death of Grandpa John, Paul's father, Ed, and Uncle George took over the business at the tender ages and 20 respectively. George, being a minor, couldn't legally sign contracts or other financial instruments.

The firm, during World War II, when machinery was scarce, sold commercial feeds to carry them through the crisis.

Zins Hardware expanded in 1960 by constructing a new 50' by 100' block and steel building.

Paul succeeded his father in the business in 1967 when his father died in a tragic auto accident.

Uncle George, now 72, partner and bookkeeper who is like a father, is in his 52nd year in the business. Paul says that easures his years at the Nicollet Co-op Oil Association prior to joining the implement firm.

Tractors, in the late1920's, sold for $400-$500. Today Model 8640 tractor will sell for $60,000 or more while Model 7700 bined with attachments will run $65,000 or more. It's not unusual for the average farmer to have a $75,000-$100,000 tment in machinery.

Today the firm carries $100,000 parts inventory to service the tractors, harvesting machines, plows, cultivators, harrows, ns, loaders, spreaders, etc.

In addition to Paul and George at the Hardware and Implement, employees are: Alan Wills, Randy Renee, and Calvin ie. Henry Boettger, recently retired, was employed there since 1939. Paul, Jr., a Vo-Tech student at Mankato, works part- for the company learning the business.

Paul also succeeded his father as trustee of St. Paul's Church of Nicollet in 1967. His grandfather and father were several on the Nicollet City Council. Paul, presently mayor, is serving his eighth year on the Council.

In his leisure time, Paul enjoys flying with his wife, the former Donna Wenner. He is looking forward to competing st Mayors Doug Pyan (St. Peter), Johnny McCabe (Cleveland), and Walt Vetter (Kasota) in future St. Peter Area Chamber mmerce events. By the way, Paul did win the mayor's "Free Throw: contest and "Home Run" derby.

n's Ace Hardware & Appliance

Don's Ace Hardware & Appliance store is located at 201 S. Minnesota Avenue and 111 W. Park Row. The brick ing on South Minnesota was built immediately after St. Peter's worst fire in 1887.

The building was owned by A. M. "Matt" Anderson and wife, Maude, where they operated a "ready to wear" store in the portion of the double store. I remember Maude, Anna (Mrs. E. C.) Davis, and Pearl Pell running the store during Matt's as postmaster. Old timers recall the days of O. B. Johnson, Ray Olson, Sr., and many other proprietors of the Fairway in the South part of the building.

Bill and Marion Francis purchased the Anderson building in 1941 when the business became known as Bill's Ace Hardware. Bill operated north and across the street in the old Engesser building (now owned by the Bob Wittys) which was known then as Western Auto.

Don Neiman, the present owner, president, and treasurer of the store, became a junior partner of Bill's Ace in 1964. He started his career in the capacity of brakeman on the railroad working out of St. Cloud. In 1957, Don moved to Spicer, Minnesota, apprenticing in an appliance store and mortuary. While at Spicer, Don was awarded a sales trip to Acapulco, Mexico.

The next move for the Neimans was to Alden, Minnesota, where Don accepted the manager position of a hardware and appliance store before moving to St. Peter.

In 1967 Don became sole owner of Ace Hardware & Appliance. Shortly thereafter he purchased the main building and leased the old St. Peter laundry and dry cleaning building on Park Row from the Francis's. Don's wife, Koreen, is a secretary while son, Dave, is vice-president and also has the responsibilities of merchandising and inventory control. Don's Ace Hardware is one of the first hardware stores using computer service for ordering.

Ace's customers are mostly within a 30-mile radius of St. Peter and have enabled Don to win trips to Mexico, Spain, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica, and several places in the U.S.

Don has given unselfishly of his time and work to his church, the chamber of commerce, and the community. He serve on the church board during the construction of the Assemblies of God Church, parsonage, and the church addition. He is past president of the Retail Council and past president and presently serving a three-year term on the chamber of commerce board of directors. In the community, he has given freely towards the Community Spirit Park project.

Don credits his loyal customers and 24 part-time and full-time employees for making Don's Ace Hardware & Appliance store one of the largest business employers in St. Peter.

The old St. Peter Laundry was operated by the Dave Haack's and son, Harmon and wife, for a quarter of a century. The LeRoy Stensbys ran their dry cleaning plant at the Park Row location before purchasing the Lindenberg gas station property where they are presently located.

The Haack building is now used by the electrical department and lawn mower service. A six-stall garage was added to the rear of the building in 1966 to house the service trucks and gives the Park Row building a capacity of 8000 square feet.

The paint shop addition to the main building in 1976 put the square footage at 10,000 in the main building plus the fou apartments upstairs giving Don's Ace Hardware & Appliance a total of 18,000 square feet.
Don's Ace is really four businesses in one. The hardware department is managed by John Allen, the electrical department is managed by Stan Hadac (an employee since 1946 right out of World War II service), Bob Sheehy manages the major appliance department, and Russ McCabe heads the sporting goods department. Jim Seitzer, a twenty-year employee retired in 1974 due to ill health. Elaine Fitch, bookkeeper is on her twenty-sixth year.

Leonard Brothers Enterprises

The Leonard brothers' (Roger and Clem) egg, hog, and farming operation are located on the Old Fort Road six miles west of St. Peter in Traverse Township. They are the fourth generation to farm the land once owned by their great-great grandfather Jacob. Jacob obtained a U. S. Government grant during the presidency of James Buchanan when their great-great Uncle Benjamin Leonard was land commissioner prior to the Civil War. Great-Great Grandpa Jacob built a log cabin and barn on the 120-acre homestead, which he grubbed for farming.

I remember Rose Chouanard, Rog and Clem's mother some fifty years ago when she worked for my folks. The Chouanards lived in lower Traverse about eight furlongs from the site of the signing of the Traverse Des Sioux Treaty in 1851.

I used to enjoy Chouanards' watermelon farm when I would tag along with my brothers, Bill and Bud, who were on the e American Legion Baseball team with Hank and Art Chouanard in the early 1930s. In those days, before OSHA, a lite (white house) was never heard of, so one would pay the price during a game for devouring the delicious melons r to the games.

The Leonard Brothers started their farming operation in 1959 by renting the John Galles farm and the Leonard home e in 1961. When their folks, Lawrence and Rose, retired and moved to St. Peter in 1962, they purchased the 178-acre e farm. The Brothers quit dairying in 1964 when they purchased the John Fox Farm (Isabelle Parson's folks).

In 1968, Clem and Roger entered the egg business and built a 40' x 240' poultry barn to house 13,000 laying hens. The ng hens are the Schaver-Starcross breed out of Canada, ordered through the Silver Lake Hatchery when 18-20 weeks old. hens start laying at 21 weeks and during the 13 month flock cycle, the Leonards gather 2 million eggs (8333 cases) that sold to E. A. Swenson & Sons, commonly called the Norseland General Store. The hens deposit their eggs in roll-a-way es that are collected by pushcarts, cased and placed in a 500 case cooler.

After 13 months, Headlee Produce purchases the old flock and a new flock comes in. The Leonards are strictly on the n market and not obligated to any franchise, firm, or company. Commercial feed for the poultry operation is transported eonard trucks from Hubbard Mill in Mankato.

In 1964 the Leonard Brothers purchased the 80-acre farm owned by Uncle Rob. Roger built a new house on the farm presently lives there with wife, Marlene, and children, Laura and Linda. Clem and wife, Betty, live on the home place . children Nancy, Jeff, Bev, and Diane.

Roger and Clem started the Leonard pork operation in 1976. The purebred British white sows and Landace boars are hased through the Pig Improvement Company and 50 percent of the gilts are sold back after 5-6 months to the same pany for breeding purposes at a weight of approximately 230 lbs. The other 50 percent of the hogs are sold to Doug n at Hormels with the exception of the one selected for the Traverse Luau held each year on Labor Day.

The Leonards maintain twenty boars and five hundred sows that produce 9.2 piglets per farrow. The gestation period sow is commonly called the 3-3-3 principle (3 months-3 weeks-3 days or 112-114 days) thus aiming for twenty farrowing week over a year's time. The piglets are in the nursery barn until reaching 40 lbs. When they go into a finishing barn they reach 230 lbs.

The use of breeding pens are used exclusively and each hog is tagged tattooed for recording accuracy. An aerated on system that meets all P. C. A. regulations and requirements keeps odor under control. The waste is pumped into ey wagons and dumped on the fields for fertilizer.

In addition to a 29' x 130' nursery and a 40' x 240' gestation building, a 29' x 180' farrowing barn, a 36' x 120' finishing , and a 30' x 25' office and shower building.

Everyone showers before entering a part of the complex to prevent spreading of diseases. Tennis shoes and coveralls urnished. Some of the more timid persons on the annual Farm Tour viewing Dick Compart's hog operation, requested hower in the motor homes for convenience sake.

The Fjosers of the St. Peter Feed Mill provide all the commercial feed mixed to specifications by nutritionist John Goihl all stages of raising the hogs.

The Leonards rent the Alan Burg and Judd Brown farms with soybeans being the only cash crop from the approximate acres. In addition to the corn they raise for feed, the Enterprise has an electric, labor, and feed bill in the neighborhood 25,000 per month.

The Leonard Brothers operation alone is so big that it could provide enough ham and eggs for Vena's Traverse Cafe to all the people attending Viking games each year if it were located at the Traverse Metropolitan Stadium. This is another on supporting the Traverse site besides having Yost Meats located at their back door.

The St. Peter Baseball Association

When the bitter cold bites the nose and the sound of crunching snow is under one's feet, our thoughts turn to baseball, apple pie, and you know what.

The game of baseball, first played in Cooperstown, New York, was founded in 1839 by Abner Doubleday, a former general in the Grand Army of the Republic. General Doubleday is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery in a military grave marked by name and date only.

Baseball in our area was first known to have been played at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds in the summer of 1876. According to my former neighbor, George F. Nutter, the game came to an abrupt end when word reached St. Peter on Sunday that the Northfield Bank had been robbed by the Jessie James gang the day before. A posse immediately dispatched to capture the villains. I often wonder what would have happened if they had met the James gang who were in St. Peter the Friday before trading horses. Even Sheriff George Witty's horse patrol or Chief Bud Lynn's police reserve would have had trouble capturing the outlaws!

The St. Peter area contributed three players to baseball's major leagues. Roger Denzer of rural Ottawa pitched for St. Peter, St. Paul, the Chicago White Sox, and the New York Giants. Denzer was recommended to the St. Paul Saints by Governor John A. Johnson, St. Peter's fifth Governor of Minnesota. Eugene Cox, whose father was Judge E. St. Julien Cox and the first Mayor of St. Peter, pitched for the Philadelphia A's in the American League. Gene grew up in the historic Cox-Gault house, now a national historic site. Harry Hughes pitched for the Cleveland Indians part of a season until benched by a sore arm. Cleveland is the same team Milt Nielsen of Motor Inn Chevrolet played for in the majors.

In the 1930's and 40's local enthusiasts Rube "Butch" Seibert, Henry Wiest, Russ Boys, and Oscar Johnson would collect upward of $2000 up and down the street for the coming season. Now the Baseball Association has a Stag (formerly 'Oldtimers Hot Stove League') to discuss the coming season's plans. This year the Stag will be at the American Legion quarters on Monday, February 5.

The St. Peter Town team won its first state title in 1933 at St. Paul's Lexington Park under the management of Rube "Butch" Seibert. The team was sponsored by the Engesser Brewery. Tip Witty, Hub Fischer, and Elmer and Herb Martens were on that team. For many years Rube wore a Minneapolis Miller uniform after an extended tryout with the club.

In the early 1930's, the Cities Service Oil Company purchased pinstriped uniforms nationwide for the American Legion teams. The St. Peter American Legion team of 1933 reached the State Semi-Finals. Imagine the thrill for the boys from Kasota, Traverse, and St. Peter to stay at the University of Minnesota Pioneer Hall and play on Northrup Field!!!

My folks took over the sponsorship of the St. Peter American Legion teams in the mid-1930's. I well remember the gray sweatshirts purchased from Nutter Clothing and Martin Menk's Mother, a meticulous seamstress, sewed the red letters "Wettergren Dairy" on the backs. All the baseball trips were taken in Dad's panel. The trip the players took to the Minneapolis Miller game at Nicollet Park will never be forgotten. There were 18 players and coaches that traded in Wheaties box tops for tickets to the game.

Some of us played in the finest ball parks in the State, but I believe we enjoyed Swenson's pasture in Oshawa (not O. S. H. A.) and Nutter's pasture in Traverse the most despite the hazards.

In 1947, the Baseball Association was organized with the late R.J. "Dutch" Reimers, president. Dutch, vice-president of the good old Minnesota Valley Gas Company, not only supplied major league uniforms, but provided many summer jobs for the players. Many now have responsible positions with Minnegasco.

The 1955 Town Team won the over-all state title by defeating Cold Spring, the Class B Champions. On the board during the reign of the 1955 championship team were Ken Santleman, C. A. Wettergren, Russ Boys, Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg, and L. O. Anthony. The players still around from that team are Bill Walter and Bill Wettergren, perennial all-around ball players.

The first game played on Veteran's Field, which was built by Hank Komatz Construction Company on July 27, 1947. The s lost 7-6 to Winthrop. On the first pitch by Lefty Lutz, the batter leaned into his great curve. It took him a while to get s he stopped the ball with his head.

Veteran's Field, considered by many as one of the finest in the state, was the scene of the State Babe Ruth Tourney in . Tourney officials raved about the flawless field and the local hospitality.

St. Peter has had many Babe Ruth Legion, High School, and city teams in the State Tourneys over the years. Besides the npionship teams heretofore mentioned, the Saints won the state Babe Ruth title in 1975 and the state Class AA High ool title in 1977. Brad Baker, for St. Peter High School and town team player, pitched and batted for the Gustavus phus team who took the 1978 MIAC title last spring.

The present Board officers and directors are: R. C. "Buzz" Hoffmann, president; Pat Schmitz, vice-president; Doug Pyan, etary-Treasurer; R. H. Neils; Francis Kozitza; Karl Miller; E. Vane Dummer; Clarence Monahan, Jr.; Marshal Anthony; ard Walter; and Clete Schroepfer.

It is a ritual for the directors and their wives to be seen after church on Sundays preparing the field and manning the cession stands prior to the games. Concessions, a big business, contributed toward the building of concessions stands, pment, backstop, and support of the team.

Baseball in St. Peter has been sound because of the players love for the game and support of the community. This is a contrast from when Babe Ruth received $80,000 in 1928. A friend told him, "Babe, you make more than the ident". The great Babe replied, "Yes, but how many home runs did the President hit?"

Remember Dizzy Dean once said, "If you have done it – it ain't braggin!" Believe me, St. Peter has done it!!!!

nultz Polled Holstein Farm

The Schultz Polled Holstein Farm, located on Highway 15 and Highway 111, is within minutes of the historic New den Creamery.

Old timers recall that the New Sweden Creamery was where Sam Haugdahl churned the butter that made him famous brought him the world championship, the Grand Prix d'Honeur at the International Expedition in Paris, France, in 1900.

It was some 40 years ago that Walter and Cora Schultz, Doug's parents, purchased the 200 acre Johanna Enter Farm and 941 the A. P. Anderson 240 acres.

I well remember when Doug and sisters, Suzanne (Mrs. Robert Herberg) and Melody (Mrs. Robert Lundberg), would mpany their parents to visit my neighbors, the George Nutters, over 20 years ago.

The late Walter Schultz, a 4-H leader for 15 years, was grooming his horned Holstein calf in readiness for 4-H petition in his youth when he was gouged in the face by the horn of a calf. He decided to take matters in his own hands 946 when he drove to Stevensville, Pennsylvania, in one weekend to pick up the three head of Polled hornless calves to New Mexico where he purchased two bull calves – thus the genes for polls were derived.

Some of the Polled Holstein advertisements boast "You don't cut, burn, or saw the horns off – breed them off!" Some of advantages of Polled Holsteins are: no death loss from de-horning, no loss of blood and vitality, no udder damage sed by horns, no worry of infection, no goring, and no loss of time. Can't you see those advertisements on TV today?

It is ironic that Walter Schultz and Hamilton Nelson, life-long friends and St. Peter High School classmates, started their essful milking parlor operations in the same year, 1951, and sons Doug and Dick, continued their operations.

Doug Schultz still used the 540-gallon Monjonnier bulk tank and compressors that has over 50,000 service hours on it. ore the bulk tank truck, the milk had to be pumped from bulk tank into cans for delivery to the New Sweden Creamery.

Milk was first sold to the New Sweden Creamery, the Mankato Creamery Association, Marigold Creamery of North Mankato, Twin Dairies of Nicollet and Courtland, and now AMPI of New Ulm. Since the installation of their milking parlor, 27,000 people from every state and many foreign countries have visited the Schultz operation.

Doug mustered out of the Air Force in 1966. In 1968, he married Judy Allerson, who in addition to caring for their children Daniel, Darin, Jean, and Jonathan, keeps the records, assists with the morning milking and occasionally helps with the fieldwork.

In 1975, Doug and Judy purchased 280 acres and now rent an additional 80 acres giving them 360 acres to keep them busy besides the dairying.

The Schultz's have had exchange students from Australia, Germany, and England apprentice in the operation. Mrs. Harold Martin's nephew, Robert Knowles in 1966 and his cousin, Michael Knowles in 1974 of Coventry, England, enjoyed their days on the Schultz farm gaining an insight into American business and agriculture. Michael is now a teacher in one of Coventry's renowned schools.

Warren Rodning, a neighbor, helped with the milking during the winter months for five years before being elected Nicollet County Commissioner. Alan Manzey of Traverse worked at the Schultz's after school through the St. Peter High School Work Cooperative plan under the jurisdiction of Steve Miller.

Fifty Holsteins can be milked in 1 hours in the 8-stall milking parlor. The hungry Holsteins annually consume 1000 ton of silage, 5000 bushels corn, 5000 bales of hay, 25 ton of protein supplements and graze on 30-acres of pasture - thus producing 20,400,000 pounds of milk in the last 28 years. This milk has been sold for as little as $2.80 per hundredweight and as much as today's $10.80 per hundredweight.

Breeders have purchased as many as 15 consecutive bulls ready for service when approximately one year old.

The Schultz's have been Green Giant growers for 35 years and at one time had the viner on their farm. Doug's mother, Cora (now Mrs. Herb Sjostrom) cooked for three shifts for the viner crews (mostly Jamaicans). The viner stack provided some of the roughage for their herd.

The electricity bill the past year was $1600 for the farm operation. Doug was a most fortunate dairyman in 1975 during the Super Bowl storm when the juice was off for 60 hours. His generator saved them a lot of stiff hands.

The Schultz's are members of county, state, and national Holstein associations. Walter was president of the National Polled Cattle organization in 1949 and, in addition to winning several honors and awards, won the highly coveted Skelly Agriculture award in 1953. Skelly officials came to St. Peter to make the award at a dinner at the Nicollet Hotel.

Doug says he is grateful to his parents, family, and laborers; but I say it's no bull when he says he owes everything to udders.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Historians agree that the college started in a one-room school at Red Wing in 1862 during the Sioux Uprising in the St. Peter area. The college was moved to a strong Lutheran settlement in Carver for the next 14 years, where it was called St. Ansgar Academy, before being moved permanently to St. Peter, overlooking the Minnesota River Valley in 1876.

The founders of St. Peter, having lost in their efforts to relocate the state capitol in St. Peter in 1857, under the leadershi of Andrew Thorson and Andrew Nelson (Hamilton's grandfather), teamed up with church members and several non-Lutheran St. Peterites to raise $10,000 to gain Gustavus Adolphus College. The most significant highlight about the drive wa that the money was raised during the grasshopper plague years.

The college, when moved to St. Peter, was given the name of Gustavus Adolphus in honor of the Swedish king, who lost his life in the Thirty Years religious war. Old Main, the first building, was dedicated in 1876 by the church people with Presbyterian and Episcopalian clergy on the program.

ffforts of Presidents Eric Norelius, J. P. Nyquist, Mattias Wahlstrom, and Peter Mattson must be commended for molding C. into a great Christian institution while the college was in its embryonic stage.

gain, in 1904-05, when Twin Citians were attempting to steal the college, local businessmen rose to the occasion by ibuting $15,000 for an auditorium. To solidify St. Peter's hold on Gustavus, Governor John nnson, St. Peter's fifth governor of Minnesota – a Democrat and a Presbyterian, was ntial in obtaining a $32,500 gift from philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie for a new dorm. Carnegie gift, accompanied by $10,500 from church members and businessmen, resulted in uilding of Johnson Hall in 1908.

Old Main, the first building on the newly moved and renamed Gustavus Adolphus College, campus was dedicated in 1876

1 1919, the late Judge Luther W. Youngdahl, former governor of Minnesota, returned from l War I to lead a fight for a new gymnasium while still a student. The Taj Mahal of gyms completed in 1921-22 at a cost of $150,000. The building not only housed a basketball but also an indoor track in the balcony and a swimming pool on the lower level.

uther's brother, Rube, roomed at my grandparents' home while going to school as itory space was very short. Many a St. Peter resident paid for their homes by rooming and ing students. Rube would raise the lower upstairs window and use it for a basket – he for a few windows. Rube was considered a giant in those days as he played center at 6'3".

uring the course of the last 50 years or more, I remember watching all of the Gustie "Hall mers", except Dwight Holcombe, perform along with the great Dewey Lurth and Chuck eey. Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg, "Hall of Famer" and former St. Peter High School and G. A. ach, made the Robert Ripley "Believe It or Not!" column by scoring all of Gustavus points st St. John's. Years later when Tuddie was coaching Gustavus against St. John's, the iie priest showed Tuddie where a student carved in the rafter of the gym "Lindenberg-27, nn's-20".

he Gabrielsen twins, Milt and Bump, were the most versatile athletes in G. A. C. history having earned 14 and 13 letters ctively. Dr. Arne Langsjoen and I were lucky to play under Milt in high school and Bump in college. It was during years that congenial custodian, Ed Gustafson (Attorney Bill's dad), would conveniently leave a door open so the kids use the gym and pool.

ustavus was put on the map in 1930 when Edgar Carlson and Wilton Bergstrand won the National Debate pionship. This feat was repeated in 1934 with J. Millard Ahlstrom and Kyle Montague doing the honors.

espite the Depression years of 1929-33, Gustavus had a prolific era with the building of a stadium, lighted football and Uhler Hall. Uhler Hall, with a capacity of 150 students, was named after the Grand Old Man of Gustavus bhus, namely Dr. J. P. Uhler, who taught from 1882-1941 (59 years).

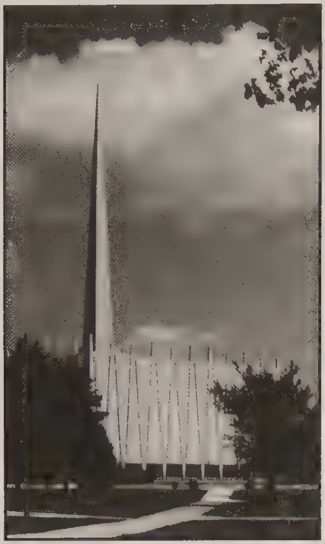
he stadium and lights money was raised by George Myrum, coach and athletic director, who credited the businessmen eir support. It was only natural that the first football game under the lights would be the undefeated St. Peter High bl team beating the highly heralded Redwood Falls team 49-0. Three thousand people attended the dedication that ng, as it was the first game played under lights in southern Minnesota.

1 1938, George Myrum solicited $34,000 (mostly locally) for the construction of a field house to house hockey and skating. Before its completion, Myrum, along with player, Don Anderson, and bus driver, St. Peterite Carl "Cully" , lost their lives while returning from St. Norbert's.

he Gustie athletic year of 1941-42 was clouded with the suspension of Gustavus from the Minnesota Intercollegiate erence. Apparently the Gusties had dominated the conference, and with Myrum gone, jealousy prevailed in the MIAC. of the charges was that the State Hospital, under the superintendency of Drs. George Freeman and B. P. Grimes, had any athletes working for their room and board. Former State Attorney General Henry Benson, Sr., a Gustavus Board ber from 1902-44, took up the cause and Gustavus Adolphus College was reinstated the next school year.

In 1942, athletic director and coach Lloyd Hollingsworth had the field house converted into a basketball arena, the "home" of the Gus Young and Whitey Skoog basketball teams. Gus' wife, "energetic" Evelyn Young, was often accused of feeding the basketball players "high off the hog".

Dr. Walter Lunden became president in 1942 and was instrumental in landing the Navy V-12 program. Despite opposition from the clergy on the board, St. Peter businessmen prevailed the college to accept the unit after being rejected Some of the board members couldn't buy the weekend pass idea and the fact that men ou numbered the girls at Gustavus 7-1. Marriages between V-12ers and some local and Gustavus girls turned out exceptionally well.



Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus
College

Presidents O. J. Johnson, Edgar Carlson, Frank Barth, and current president Edward Lindell have proven to be excellent leaders having endured the trial and tribulations of administrators.

The college has grown not only in student enrollment, but economically as well. According to the Herald's 1930 "Diamond Jubilee", Gustavus had an investment of $1,250,000 for the advancement of Christian education, and the operating expenses were $110,000 for educating 500 students. Today, Ross Bloomquist, vice president of operation and treasurer, reported the sum of $325,000 was paid to the City of St. Peter for utilities each year. The payroll amounts to $4,645,927 to 400 employees for the education of 2200 students. The sum of $280,000 is identified as being paid to St. Peter businesses. Cash of $20,000,000 flows through the local banks annually from Gustavus.

G. A. C. professors and their wives have served on governmental bodies, commissions and boards in the community. The late George Anderson served as mayor of St. Peter and was clerk of District #508 School Board at the time of his passing. Dr. E. C. Carlton, Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth, and Ellery Peterson had a term or two on the city council as aldermen. Professor N. P. Langsjoen, Dr. Gerald Brekke, and Bruce Gray served on the local school board. Bruce is the present chairman of the board. Two Gustavians have been chamber presidents, namely, Ellery Peterson–1967, and present Ross Bloomquist.

The cultural, social, and economical benefits have been a great asset not only to the community, but the entire Midwes Thousands of people come each year to attend the Nobel Conference, musical recitals, and plays at the college.

Gustavus Adolphus College and St. Peter have come a long way since Old Main was built in 1876. Fifty years from no Gustavians Brad Baker, Ron Straka, Ed Drenttel, and Tim Roberts (local St. Peterites) could be in the "HALL OF FAME".

May the chapel bells continue to ring out the blessings of success for Gustavus Adolphus College and its students.

Tate's Construction

Since the beginning of time, a man's home has been his castle.

According to the St. Peter Building Inspector, Clayton Davis, there were 223 homes and 134 apartments built from January, 1971, to December 31, 1978, with a valuation of approximately $12 million. During that same time, 140 mobile homes were located in St. Peter.

Tate's Construction and St. Peter Rental, located at 215 S. Minnesota Avenue in the "Skoning" Nelson building, was onc the C. A. Johnson Store building. One can still see a Pillsbury Flour sign on the south side that reads "Cost more-worth more".

Gordon started the Tate's Construction Company, Inc. with his late brother, Bob, in 1965. The first major general contract was the Tri-County Water Conditioning building located at 407 S. Minnesota Avenue.

mboy Municipal Liquor Store, Central School's 76-foot chimney, Garden City School addition, and all the brick work own & Campus Apartments in Mankato are some of the jobs in recent years.

978 was Tate's best year. Included in the construction were 30 new homes, major addition and remodeling of the western Bell Telephone Building in Lafayette, and 6500 square feet major addition to the Messiah Lutheran Church in Mankato.

he firm's volume expects to exceed $1 million in 1979. Presently they are doing the subcontracting for two twelve- s in Daun's Addition.

wenty-eight employees make up a payroll of approximately $275,000. Officers of the Corporation are Gordon Tate, dent; Joan Tate, Vice-President; Larry Kistner, Secretary-Treasurer, who joined in 1974 after attending Mankato Vo-Tech najoring in accounting. Larry is originally from Arlington. Phil Engbretson, construction manager since 1975, is a nolder along with the officers heretofore named. Gordie Tate's sons, Jim and Keith, are also employees of the firm. Jim s on the concrete crew and Keith is a carpenter.

ther key employees are: Norman Kollman, carpenter foreman who started with Tate's in 1967. Norm has purchased ce track property, a 38 lot development that is in the street layout stage, with sewer and water being put in this ner; Jack Friedrichs, mason foreman, is the longest employee of Tate's Construction, Inc. starting in 1966. Jack and his live west of Traverse; and Joe Costello, construction manager, is a 1976 graduate of the University of Wisconsin at in construction management. Recently many honors have been bestowed upon Joe, among them are the 1978 Mankato e of the Year, Jaycee Director of the 1978 year, and Minnesota Presidential award winner in 1978.

t. Peter Rental, a division of the Tate operation, lists approximately 2000 items in their inventory. One may rent ing from a punch bowl to a cement mixer. Phil says that, as of today, the lawn care equipment are the hottest rental .

lthough the pneumatic staplers, nailers, and electric saws are tools of expediency. The ancient plumb, square, level, avel are still important tools of the carpenter and operative mason.

reland Country Club

olf, sometimes referred to as "pasture pool", was first introduced to the St. Peter area in the school year of 1925-26 several Gustavus Adolphus students brought their clubs with them to college.

he first course was a 5-holer located in the State Hospital pasture during the superintendency of Dr. George Freeman. ose days, golfers didn't need O. S. H. A. to tell them manure was slippery when wet.
ding to the story written by Herb Filler in the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee in 1930, the Club purchased 30.9 acres 26 on the north shore of beautiful Lake Emily from George W. Davis. (Lake Emily, supposedly having received its name he first white girl that drowned in the lake.) The following year, an additional 9.46 acres were acquired from I. C. .

n Nov. 5, 1926, 19 interested citizens attended a meeting at which Floyd Johnson was named Chairman and Edward on (Norma MacKenzie's husband) was named secretary. Officers and directors of the first board elected in April, 1927, as follows: P. E. Dick, president; E. E. Miller, vice-president; F. B. Johnson, secretary-treasurer; and R. C. Spaulding, P. huveiller, O. L. Mork, F.A. Johnson, G. W. Nelson, and James Nutter as directors. Of this original board, only Jim Nutter es.

embers of the Shoreland Country Club worked many nights picking up rocks off the course with the use of pails. rd Ricker, a mechanic of renown ability, for many years would repair fairway mowers in his auto shop gratis.

oward's good wife, Garnie, was the perennial Shoreland Women's Golf Champion for many years. She, along with pro Martens, started Joan Garvin on her road to a golfing career. Joan has won more women's amateur golf titles than ne in the state. Other cities like to claim her, but she is a St. Peter product and graduate of Shoreland.

Dr. M. E. Lenander was one of the first of Shoreland's champions. Ab Haugdahl and brother-in-law, Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg, played many years for the Shoreland title. Tuddie and son, Dave, are the only father-son champions in Shoreland's history. For the record, Mert Kirby holds the "hole-in-one" title with eight. Mert and Dale Thompson former Shoreland champs, had the double honor of scoring consecutive "holes-in-one" on greens 3 and 4.

My greatest moment at Shoreland was when playing with Father Raymond Rypel, Bob Theurer, and Joe Barta. Father Rypel was the first cross-handed golfer to score a "hole-in-one" on green 3. Theurer birdied and Barta and I parred. The Twin City news media made a big story of the feat.

Forty some years ago, Ralph Todd was caretaker and I remember the sand greens. Once on the green, golfers would putt but once after raking the path for the ball. Grass greens were constructed around 1950 to the satisfaction of most golfers. Ralph's wife, Nellie, an excellent cook, would feed well over 100 people on stag nights. Members would take turns working the bar or kitchen one night a year.

The great Patty Berg, playing with Joan Garvin, Elmer Martens and Dave Lindenberg in 1955, scored a mere 44 coming up short on greens 4 and 8 which cost her strokes.

An old cottage, brought up from the lake, served as the clubhouse until 1948 when a $13,000 clubhouse was built on the brow of the hill. An addition was built in 1960 when Ken Mayer was president.

The club purchased 40.25 acres from Al and Marie Maas in 1973 for the price of $800 per acre. An additional 14 acres was bought from the Carl Kellers in 1974. With the addition of these two parcels, another nine holes will soon be completed.

In the fall of 1978, under the presidency of John Bresnahan, the old clubhouse was demolished to make way for a $270,000 facility. Another $50,000 in furnishings will grace the new building. Lyle Volk, contractor who learned the building trade from his father, Herb Volk, expects the building completed by June 15. A $20,000 swimming pool and $18,000 tennis courts will be completed this summer. A goal of 500 members is expected by the time the new facilities are completed.

Pat Thompson, Associated Press writer from Minneapolis, told me that he and his family are looking forward to using the new facilities when he plays in the annual Shoreland golf tourney on Labor Day weekend.

Robert Larson from Prior Lake, Shoreland's new pro, was hired January 1 to run the club operations.

Present officers and board members are: Les Peterson, president; Harry Kramer, vice-president; Darlene Reese, secretary Larry Hahn, accountant and acting treasurer; and Steve Hokanson, Darrell Rosenow, Marilyn Rundell, Roger Leonard, Stuart Johnson, and Harry Hunt as directors.

The construction project at the present time, the largest undertaking ever at Shoreland, will take a lot of time, effort, and money. Finishing touches (painting, staining, and clean up) to the clubhouse are being done by volunteers. Anyone wishing to help, please contact the Shoreland Club to inform them of the day and hours you are available. Remember ☐ let us not ask, "What can Shoreland do for us?" but, "What can we do for Shoreland?"

Minnesota School Boards Association

The office of the Minnesota School boards Association has been located in St. Peter for the past twenty-eight years, and serves the school board members and superintendents of schools in all of Minnesota's 434 school districts. The association, a non-profit organization and organized in 1920, is the eighth oldest school boards association in the nation.

The purposes of the Association are to: "develop, strengthen, and correlate the work of the school boards of the state o Minnesota public schools in their effort to promote the educational interests of the State of Minnesota, and to deal with questions in whatever manner deemed best by the Board of Directors under the conditions as they develop of exist at the time of such action and within the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation".

he Association is governed by a fifteen-member board of directors elected by the school board members in Minnesota each of twelve director districts. The association president is Dr. M. Joan Parent, a Foley Veterinarian, and the vice-dent is Marjorie Johnson, Cenex Business Manager from Lake Park, Minnesota. The board of directors are elected for -year terms, must be local school board members, and meet monthly to conduct the business of the association een annual meetings of the membership held in January. The association also belongs to the National School Boards iation located in Washington, D.C., which is composed of the 50 state school boards associations in the nation.

V. A. (Bill) Wettergren, who learned the ABCs at Traverse District No. 3 school and at his mother's knee, is the itive secretary of the association having taken that position on August 1, 1950. He is the fourth executive of the ization in its history, and is currently dean of the State School Boards Association Executives in the nation. At the time ing the position of executive, Bill was a veteran St. Peter School Board member and a member of the association's of directors. His first employee was Mrs. George (Mildred) Stotz, who served as secretary for 22 years before retiring 74.

he first two years of Mr. Wettergren's service as association executive were on a part-time basis, with the first offices ed in one of the dressing rooms off the stage in the old high school. After two years the offices were moved to the rear MacKenzie Real Estate and Insurance building. The offices were next located in the W. E. Hanson Building on esota Avenue. Fourteen years ago, the Bolton-Menk engineering Firm moved its offices to Mankato, and for two years ssociation rented that building, which is the present location. The board of directors then bought the building, and that time has added two additions to the association's office structure.

o provide school board member services the association will operate this next year on a budget of $654,810 which is ed from membership dues, sale of board materials, and rental of exhibit space during the annual convention. Would believe the budget was only $2,500 in 1950? The budget and dues are set by the association's board of directors during ay meeting of the board, which is held in St. Peter. Dues are authorized by Minnesota statute, but are voluntary on the of each school board. The association has enjoyed a 100 percent membership of public school boards for over twenty . The depository for the association is the First National Bank of St. Peter.

he association is a service organization for the lay person in public education providing educational services for the s enrolled in Minnesota's public schools. One of the many services provided is a line of insurance coverages, which are n the competitive market. The operation of the program is conducted by the Minnesota School Boards Association ance Trust for the benefit of the association membership. The trust is managed by a group of trustees from school is who are members of the trust. The trustees this year distributed more than $720,000 in premium earnings refunds to the member school districts. The depository for this program is the Nicollet County Bank of St. Peter.

he association office and staff respond to 7,000 phone calls a year, mail 250,000 pieces through the local post office ally, conduct between 175 and 200 meetings, seminars, or workshops a year, and make more than 2 million essions annually on the office printing equipment. In addition, the association staff lobbies in the Legislature and the ress on behalf of the public school boards in Minnesota representing lay citizen interests in the operation of public l districts.

he association staff consists of seven members of the administrative staff and seven members of the association clerical The staff is employed by and works under the direction of the Executive Secretary with approval of the association of directors. The staff payroll of the association for the next year is set at $282,000.

W. A. Wettergren is the Executive Secretary; Willard Baker, Associate Executive Secretary; James Jacobs, Administrative tant; James Schmid, Director of Field Services; Mike Torkelson, Director of Public Information; Richard Anderson, tor of Field Services; and Robert Meeks, Project Director.

he school board movement in the nation representing lay citizens in the work of public education is the fastest ing movement in public education, and believes its preservation lies in citizen participation through the work of local l boards. The Minnesota association, like other state and national school boards associations are the only educational izations in the nation representing all factions of public education in the operation of public school districts.

his year the Minnesota Legislature, with approval of Governor Quie, appropriated $2 billion for the biennium to the ublic school boards in Minnesota to assist them in providing educational programs for the 900,000 pupils enrolled in

Minnesota public school districts. Public elementary and secondary education is the State of Minnesota's and each local school district's largest and most important business.

History reminds us that St. Peter did not get the state capitol in 1857, but the Honorable Carl M. Johnson, our state representative, has often said, that with the Minnesota School Boards Association office in St. Peter, with Gustavus Adolphus College located in St. Peter, and with his being chairman of the House Education Committee serving elementary and secondary schools, St. Peter is at least the "Educational Capital" of the State of Minnesota.

St. Peter Community Hospital And Health Care Center

In 1862, during the Indian Uprising in the New Ulm-Fort Ridgely area, 10,000 men, women, and children gathered in St. Peter seeking food, shelter, medical assistance, and protection.

The sick and wounded were cared for in a makeshift hospital, the Ewing House (Brinkman's Apartments), located on the corner of Third and Walnut streets. When the last soldiers left the Ewing House it became Minnesota's first asylum for the mentally ill.

History reveals that Dr. A.W. Daniels, first person to administer chloroform northwest of the Mississippi, doctored the mistreated Indians and whites with equal regularity during the fracas.

In 1905, according to the book, "Back to Eden", copyrighted in 1939 by Jethro Kloss and later by his daughter, Promise, St. Peter had a "home" sanitarium (St. Peter's first known hospital and operated out of the home of the Kloss's).

Jethro and his brother, Theophilus, were therapists and specialized in deep heat therapy and herbs. The Sanitarium was located south of Dr. C. S. Strathern's residence and where the late Al Weisgerber resided. Mrs. Leo Wernimont and Glen Jacobson of St. Peter and Lula Simpson of Mankato are descendents of the Kloss Brothers.

Dr. W.W. Covell, a World War I surgeon and father of Wally Covell and Renee Weisgerber, purchased the Theodore Knoll building on Third and Park Row in 1927 to be used as a 20-bed hospital. My Grandmother, Minnie Kohl Pell, upon arriving from Buffalo, New York, worked for her Uncle Teddie Knoll in the mercantile side of Knoll's Mercantile & Saloon business.

In 1931, Dr. Covell added a third story to the hospital giving it a capacity of 28 rooms. He announced the closing of the hospital in 1938, converting the building into apartments.

A second hospital in St. Peter in the mid 30's, the Cora-Lee Hospital, located where Budget Mart is now, was owned and operated by Leo and his wife, Cora Hughes. It flourished until Leo's health forced the hospital to close.

Later in 1938, Drs. M. E. Lenander, E.G. Olmanson, W. W Covell, F. P. Strathern, and C. S. Strathern offered to underwrite any deficit that should occur for the operation of a new hospital. The Common Council of the City of St. Peter, by resolution, accepted the offer.

A referendum was put before the City to build a new $60,000 30-bed hospital with $33,000 coming from the coffers of the City Light and Water Department and $26,649 coming from a W.P.A. grant. The voters passed the referendum by a 6-1 margin.

Minnesota Square Park, Levee Park, and the old Nicollet County Jail sites were discussed as possible locations for the hospital with the old jail site selected. The old jail, constructed of Kasota stone, was the home of destitute families for many years. As a kid, I remember delivering many quarts of milk to the residents at the height of the Depression. I could never understand why the products and service were on the "cuff".

In 1939, George Martens, first Secretary of the Hospital Board who also carried the boiler license, was paid a salary of $12.00 monthly. The domestic help received 15 cents per hour; cooks 25 cents an hour; and the head nurse, who was also nesthetist, received $180 monthly. Private rooms ran $7.50 per day. George said they received many chickens in lieu of .. Incidentally, at that time, milk was 8 cents a quart and gasoline–a mere 15 cents per gallon.

In 1959, a new half million dollar 45-bed hospital was built with the old hospital, now known as the East Wing of the hospital, licensed for a nursing home. Eventually, due to increased state regulations, the nursing home was reduced 32 to 24 rooms resulting in a $30,000 a year deficit.

A new health care center was built in 1975 during Terrell Pierson's administration at a cost of $1.6 million providing 20 rding care beds and 60 intermediate and skilled beds. Admissions for boarding care were eliminated in July of 1978 ting more private rooms. In January 1977, a three-bed intensive-coronary care unit was established.

Respiratory therapy services were initiated in December 1976, on a contractual basis. Other ancillary services include: time in-house pharmacy (initiated September 1976); consultants for pathology–LCM, Mankato; x-ray-Radiology Ltd., zata; and orthopedic consultations through the Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic, Mankato. Staff members have maintained natal classes and expanding patient education; and Gustavus Adolphus College has a continuing agreement with the ity providing practical experience for nursing students.

The Hospital and Care Center is one of St. Peter's largest employers with $1.3 million of a $2.3 million budget paid to part and full-time employees.

A six person Hospital Board consists of President Helen Carter; Vice-President Lavinia Bloomquist, Secretary Dr. Curtis ee, and Trustees-Dayton Martinson, Mary O'Brien and Louis Shumway. Dave Larson is the present administrator, Marcella llberg, director of nurses at the Health Care Center, also serves as assistant administrator and Connie Butler is the director urses at the Hospital.

The Hospital-Health Care Center provides an additional great community service with the dietary department preparing eals on wheels" for the shut-ins in the area.

The Auxiliary plays an important part in the operation of the Complex with 80 active members and 30 associate mbers donating their services. In the past 4 years, the Auxiliary raised $12,300 from their annual dinner-dances towards purchase of hospital equipment. Auxiliary officers are Thea Dahleen, President; Carol Skow, Vice-President; Sue erson, Secretary; and Bonnie Hunt, Treasurer.

Monies were raised from individuals (my folks naturally chose the children's room), lodges, churches, and other anizations towards the purchases of rooms in 1939, 1959, and 1975.

Industries, businessmen, and individuals, when requesting information about St. Peter, inquire as to medical facilities, rches, schools and recreational opportunities. It's great to say, without the least equivocation, "We have the best!"

eorge A. Hormel Livestock And Buying Station

The St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, aware that agriculture is the most vital industry in the State of Minnesota, ilt the livestock yards in East St. Peter on the banks of the beautiful Minnesota River in 1941.

Mel Lurth, in the trucking business since 1930 and knowing that 90% of the livestock was going to Mankato in the late 30's, approached Clare Moll, then president of the First National Bank, and Dr. M. E. Merkley, Veterinarian, who earheaded volunteers from the chamber and, with lumber from the old Mankato Fairgrounds, built the livestock facility.

Heretofore the Traverse, Nicollet, and St. Peter Shipping Associations served the farmers of the area. The late Jim fford, well-known auctioneer, was the manager of the St. Peter Shipping Association.

Mel Lurth, a native of the Lake Washington-Kasota area, was hired as manager of the station and opened the doors on tober 28, 1941. An ardent hunter, fisherman, and Kasota High School basketball player, Mel sold the livestock to the dahy Packing Company through Jul Puck of Mankato Livestock. Grand Opening prizes were given to farmers with the biggest hog, most hogs, and the farmer that brought a load of hogs the longest distance. Mel recalls a farmer taking his check for a load of hogs and spending it at Klein's for a load of household furniture. The last few years, over $3 million annually has been paid to producers with most of the money pumped back into the business area.

Mel stated that the top price he paid for hogs was $30.00 per hundredweight in 1948. That same year, Mel received a bonus for reaching the one million dollar sales mark.

The late Rog Anderson was Mel's assistant. Stan Anderson, Bob Carter, and Joe Schneider were haulers. Joe still hauls fo Jim Wilson & Sons, the present haulers.

In 1955, Sam Abrahamson and the late Bill Francis interested the George A. Hormel Company of Austin in purchasing the land, building, and equipment from the chamber.

Doug Pyan, the present manager, has been with Hormel's for 32 years. He arrived at St. Peter the day after Thanksgivin in 1955. The first price he had on his board that day was $11 per hundredweight.

Doug says today's hogs are mostly grade yield which is a result of good breeding and that they come from within a 15-mile radius. Jim Krenik of Madison Lake holds the record for the highest premium paid by Hormel Packing Company in St. Peter- $54.75 per hundredweight on October 7, 1975. The Hormel station in St. Peter has been buying hogs exclusively since 1977.

Mel sold the Lurth St. Peter Livestock Hauling business in 1970 to Bob Carter. Carter sold to Verl Pettis, who in turn, disposed of the hauling business to Headlee Transfer. Jim Wilson & Sons purchased the Headlee interest in 1978. I remember when the Lurths lived in the Zimmerman house on Minnesota Avenue where Meyer Studio is now located. Mel's sister-in-law, Gladys Stockton, lived with them and, along with Helen Bornemann and Madeline Poncin Peters, was one of the best teachers I ever had.

Doug and Mel report the operation in St. Peter survived gas rationing, tire shortages, and the floods in 1951, 1952, and 1965. The flood in 1965 raised waters in Pyan's office to a ten-foot level. Fortunately, in 1969, the dikes held avoiding the worst flood in St. Peter history.

Doug and Mel are not only interested in livestock, but share political interests. Mel, a 29-year veteran of local politics (1 of them as Chairman of the Common Council of St. Peter), has seen many area changes.

Doug, a World War II navy veteran and mayor of St. Peter since 1970, serves on the St. Peter Town Baseball Board, was recently co-chairman of the District Three American Legion Baseball Tourney, and is chairman of the Chamber's Annual Indian Summer Hog Show. Doug has been head chicken fryer for the Independence Day Picnics and other events over the years.

Doug firmly believes there is a bond of friendship and camaraderie among the farmers and businessmen. In fact, they go together like ham and eggs.

Grandview Care Center

Grandview Care Center, located at 803 Sunrise Drive and Traverse Road, opened its doors for the care of the aged on February 6, 1967.

The land, purchased from the late H. H. Pell in 1966, was inhabited as late as 117 years ago, by a few whites who dwelt in sod houses, some prairie chickens, wolves, and Indians.

Jim Clark, an early pioneer and stage coach driver from St. Peter to Faribault in the early 1850's, told me when I was a youngster, that during the Indian Uprising in 1862, the Indians assembled where the Gardner, Lambert, and Lomis farms are located, to get ready for the attack on St. Peter. They were discouraged, however, when, on the brow of the hill in the area

Grandview Care Center they saw what they thought were canons entrenched but were really stovepipes acting as decoys. us, the 10,000 refugees in St. Peter along with the natives were spared.

The Reverend Ernie Swanson was the first administrator of the Care Center when the doors opened in 1967. It was then ned and operated by Assemblies Home, Inc. of Glenwood, Minnesota.

Although the administrators to date have been ministers of the Assemblies of God faith, the Care Center is owned and erated as a separate entity.

The Care Center Auxiliary was formed in May, 1968, with the following first officers: President–Mrs. Avery Pettis, Vice-sident–Mrs. Howard Stevemer, Secretary–Orpha Lokensgard, and Treasurer–Mrs. Adolph Lokensgard. Lizzie Yost and e Thieman, charter members of the Auxiliary, are now honorary members as residents of Grandview.

The Auxiliary holds an annual bazaar near the end of October when approximately $1200 is raised annually for the xiliary projects. The Auxiliary is responsible for family nights and works with the Care Center personnel in arranging for July 4th picnic, Christmas party, and other entertainment.

Reverend James Wolf became administrator in February, 1970, prior to the purchase of the Care Center by Reverend ce Pope in 1976. Reverend Pope sold his interest to four businessmen in July, 1978.

The 16,809 square foot building with 38 rooms and 76 beds was upgraded from an Intermediate 1 to a Skilled Care nter on December 1, 1978.

The Care Center is one of St. Peter's largest employers. 80 part and full-time people make up a project payroll of 0,000 for the coming year, 1980. Included are five Registered Nurses, 11 Licensed Practical Nurses, a full-time social rker, two full-time activities workers, and a specialist in speech and physical therapy.

Susie Wettergren, the employee with the most years started a month before the Care Center officially opened. Lucy tlett, an L.P.N., started August, 1967, and Terri Rozsa, an escapee from Hungary, is employed as supervisor of the food ce October, 1968. This past year, Terri, as a U. S. Citizen, visited her family in Hungary for the first time since escaping 11 rs ago.

Hazel Witty, wife of the late Sheriff Clifford "Tip" Witty, worked from 1968 until her retirement in 1976. Hazel has kept ve in the Auxiliary's regular projects. She remembers, during the blizzard of 1975, many of the workers worked around clock.

Gladys Pearson has the honor of being a resident of Grandview since the doors opened.

Ed Westphal, a former University of Minnesota football player during the days of the immortal Bronco Nagurski, is one ne many residents who has regularly attended Twins games over the years. Ed, by the way, was among the fans that rtered a bus to see the St. Peter Saints Football Team win the State Class A Championship in 1976.

Marian Pettis, present activities coordinator, is responsible for the interesting weekly Grandview articles in the St. Peter ald.

Chapel services are scheduled every Thursday evening under the auspices of the St. Peter Ministerial Association. Mass lebrated every other Friday at 9:00 a.m. Lutherans hold services the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Other ns hold services at their convenience.

Otto Sinell, a church layman, has conducted the 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning church service every Sunday since the ne opened except for a few vacation Sundays.

Countless people have received tender and loving care from a dedicated staff since the doors opened in the winter of 7. School, church, and civic volunteer groups should be commended for their many hours and talents donated to provide ndview residents with entertainment, food, and social visits on a one-to-one basis.

Yes, a lot of water has gone over the dam since 96-year-old Lizzie Wolfe Yost of Traverse, the Care Center's oldest resident was a youngster.

St. Peter Bakeries

Veith's

Butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers have come and gone over the years in St. Peter, but Veith's Bakery, located o the corner of Park Row and Third, is still serving its community after 65 years.

Fred and wife, Flora, now deceased (Clarence Veith's parents) were married in Iowa in 1901, where they worked at the time. Just before their move to St. Peter. Fred's baking apprenticeship was under the well-known Eibner's, while Flora care for the Eibner children.

No less than four generations, including myself, frequented the Veith candy Counter for the purchase of lemon drops, candy corn, peppermints, and peanut brittle. It was a Saturday morning ritual for our daughters to pedal their bikes down t Veith's for fresh donuts and a few pennies worth of candy.

Clarry Veith, who grew up in the bakery, returned home from the, Armed Forces and enrolled at Dunwoody Institute i 1946 to pursue his baking interest. Clarry and wife, Marion, became sole owners of the bakery in 1960.

It was natural for Clarry to form a drum corps at the end of World War II along with Wally Covell and Clint Lomis, as hi father, Fred, played in the city band under band director, Rudy Faust (Bob's Dad). Clarry is also a ham operator and lists ca letters W A 0 W I Z.

Customers could always find Veith's open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. everyday when Clarry's folks and late brother, Pete, were alive. Pete, when not fishing, would redo cane chairs.

Although most bakeries use pre-mix, Veith's formulas are from scratch. The bakery purchases 25 tons of Mother Hubbard flour from the Mankato mill annually. 39,000 plastic bags are used yearly to package the fresh products.

The days of greasing the baking pans are over as the pans are taken to the Twin Cities once a year for a silica coating. The brick oven serves a dual purpose. In addition to a better flavor, according to Clarry, the heat from the oven keeps the gas bill at a minimum.

The Veiths are blessed with excellent part-time help from their children Chuck, Ron, and Dee Dee when the occasion arises.

McCabe's

Old timers recall George Langguth's Ideal Bakery, located on Park Row, now occupied by Dueber Fabrics. Upon George's retirement, Red McCabe, long time employee, purchased the bakery, then sold out to Freys before Gerry McCabe bought the business.

Sugar 'n Spice

Alan and Anita Grue purchased the Burg Building (Alan Burg's grandparents) from Myrtle Lund in 1975 to open a bakery upon the closing of Truman Smith's Rolling Pin Bakery at 216 S. Minnesota Avenue.

The time was ripe as about that same time, John Lindquist closed John's Bakery, located where Hallmark is now. The north side of the Burg Building was a bakery for 50 years with the Kings, Steins, and Caspers (Mrs. Joe Norman's folks) operating from that location.

Alan is the fourth generation of Grue's in the baking business over the last 100 years as his great-grandpa, John, operated in St. Paul, Grandfather Harry in LeSueur, father Roy in Fairfax and Marshall, and now Alan in Marshall and St. Peter. Who knows? Maybe Alan and Anita's daughters, Carmen and Stacy, will be following in their father's footsteps as he did in his father's.

While in LeSueur, the Grues had a route to serve stores in Ottawa, Henderson, Cleveland, St. Henry, and St. Thomas. h's, in the meantime, served Norseland, New Sweden, Traverse, and Oshawa.

Alan's Father, Roy, before his marriage to Gert Paul, attended Gustavus Adolphus College where he played on the 1933 C Football Championship team with St. Peterites Don Hergert, Ray Sinders, Earl "Kid" Witte, and the Olson twins. Dr. L. ollingsworth, Ren Anderson, and the late Joe Dvorak were among the 14 lettermen on the team.

The Sugar & Spice Bakery goes through 7 tons of powdered sugar a year and bake and decorate 200 pounds of cake kly.

Anita said that working in a bakery is hotter than "Dutch" love. However, she neglected to say how hot Dutch love is.

Upon the retirement of Eddie and Clara Hanson and the closing of their Gamble Store, the Grues opened a Coffee and Cream Shop in the south portion of their building. Needless to say, that business is as successful as the bakery.

As someone once said, no matter how you put it, the Veiths and Grues are in the dough.

uris Krenik Pork Farm

Lauris Krenik, farmer-businessman-educator, along with his wife, Nancy, and son, Mike, owns and operates the Krenik -acre farm, located on the banks of Lake Washington.

Nancy said the Kreniks are just up a ways from "Preacher's Row" so-labeled because so many Gustavus Adolphus ege professors lived between Camp Patterson and the Crackerbox along the lake.

Lauris, one of the Krenik clan to farm in LeSueur County, graduated from Cleveland High School and the University of nesota School of Agriculture, St. Paul Campus in 1954, before serving as a navigator in the Air Force.

Lauris met Nancy Hanson (the late Harry and Verna's daughter) at the University of Minnesota where she received her ree as a home economist. Nancy is involved in Home Extension and Economist groups and is LeSueur County's Home nomist. She serves on the Cleveland School Board and is presently a Cleveland Pioneer 4-H leader, having come up ugh the ranks of the Norseland 4-H Club during Fred Wetherill's regime as Nicollet County Agent.

Lauris farmed with his Father, the late Del, from 1957-1971, and his brother, Ken, from 1971-1976.

Corn is the principal crop raised on the Krenik farm and is consumed by 1500-2000 hogs per year. The Krenik's have a plete hog operation (farrowing to market). In 1961, Lauris was one of the first hog operators to go to an all-slat barn. Krenik complex now consists of three partial slat barns (one for gestation) and a 40-unit sow farrowing barn.

Nancy says that Doug Pyan, buyer for the George A. Hormel Buying Station in St. Peter, is more than happy to purchase r hogs.

Lauris's credentials are like those from the Who's Who, having served as president of St. Peter's Evangelical Church, ueur County Pork Producer's Association, Minnesota Pork Producer's Association, Farm Service Coop Board of LeCenter, anuel-St. Joseph Hospital Board in Mankato, Advisory Board of the Waseca Technical College, and as Cleveland Pioneer Leader.

Presently he serves on the board of the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center at Waseca, the First National Bank of kato, and the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota where many of the Krenik Clan have graduated including laughter, Kris. Daughter, Karla, is a sophomore and son Mike is planning to follow the trend at the University.

As a regent, Lauris was involved in selecting President McGrath, basketball Coach Jim Dutcher, and football coach Joe m–all considered no easy task.

Lauris was named the St. Peter Jaycees "Outstanding Young Farmer" in 1963, was awarded the South Education Association "Outstanding Achievement" award, and was selected to the Minnesota Swine Honor Roll.

The Kreniks celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this past summer by throwing (what else?) a hog roast and spent their second honeymoon on a recent trip to China.

Who says farming isn't big business?

Spiess And Coulter Plumbing And Heating

The plumbing business in St. Peter has changed drastically since the days of the pump, water bucket, pot belly stove, and the two hole outdoor satellite with the more affluent families having a depressed third-holer for the kids.

Albert J. Potts was in on the ground floor of the plumbing business 85 years ago when he opened a shop in a building that stood where the V. F. W. Post 1120 is now located.

My mother often relates the following story when she roomed at Potts above the shop while attending high school. She had a habit of sleep walking and more than once would awaken when her feet hit the cool cement shop floor.

Potts later built a home on North Third and Skaro where the Floyd Johnsons lived for many years and is now where the Bruce Ellefsons reside.

The late Dick Maltby (Carol's husband) was associated with the Potts firm, the last 25 years as a partner. According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee of 1930, the partnership was dissolved and Maltby embarked on his own.

Maltby, in his last eight years of business, operated out of the south side the Odd Fellows Lodge Building. The entire building now houses Dan Schlenker's Hardware Hank.

When Potts retired, Maltby and E. A. (Ed) Theis (Roger Theis and Jane Theurer's Father) purchased the Maltby interest. However, after a year, the partnership went down the drain with Theis buying Dick out and Maltby, once again, went on his own.

George Spiess, long time employee of Maltby and Harold "Peanuts" Coulter, purchased the business from Carol upon the death of Dick in 1949, fulfilling a previous agreement.

Peanuts, also a St. Peter native, worked for the H. B. Seitzer Ford Company from 1933-1943 before entering the military. Upon returning from his service stint, Peanuts worked for Maltby until 1949 when the firm became known as, Spiess & Coulter.

Coulter became sole owner of the business in 1952 upon the retirement of his partner, George.
Dick Ryan, a Hamline University graduate, taught and coached at Plainview High School before becoming a salesman for Manners-Motz plumbing wholesalers. It was on a routine call to Spiess & Coulter that he became acquainted with Peanuts and bought into the business in 1957 and became sole owner in 1965.

My first introduction to Dick was in 1946 when my brother, Bill, and I played semi-pro baseball with St. James in the Western Minny (the same year that Casey Dowling played with Sleepy Eye in the same league). Dick pitched for St. James when we beat the star-studded Springfield Tigers 8-3 for the upset of the year. Believe it or not modest Dick had a dazzling fastball and a wicked curve.

Spiess & Coulter cites installing sewer and waterlines for the cities of Lake Crystal, Madison Lake, Clara City, and New Ulm as the bigger jobs. Harold operated the first backhoe used in St.. Peter and readily admits that it sure beats the “pick and shovel”.

The firm, in addition to plumbing Norma MacKenzie's 100 plus homes and Lampert's houses, did Dr. Vern Olmanson's sse which they consider the largest house job.

Some of the financial, institutional, and industrial jobs include the Nicollet County Bank, First National Bank, First eral Savings & Loan, Production Credit Association, Babcock Stone, Komatz Construction, Hendrickson Organs, nacraft Northland Ski, Dr. A.H. Thompson's Clinic, the old St. Peter Clinic (now owned and operated by Drs. Dahleen, lleen, and O'Brien), the renovated historic Cox House, A & W Drive Inn, installed 4 hot water lines in all tunnels at the e Hospital, worked at G. A. C., and the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran parish halls.

Dick said that they also did the terminal building at the St. Peter Airport while just missing the bid on the Bernadotte rnational Airport terminal building by a few dollars.

The first plastic soil drainage pipe was used in Dick's new house on North Ninth Street in 1967. The Jim Littigs now own house.

Dick's son Rich, a St. Peter and Gustavus all-time great baseball and football player is now associated with the business. , Bob, a St. Peter High School senior and Dick's wife, Eleanor, work part time for the Firm. Long time employees are n "Bud" Strand-22 years, and Barry Woods-8 years. Warren Osborne, Lute Anderson, Ed Flowers, and Lowell "Stoop" on worked many years for Spiess & Coulter. In fact, Warren started for Maltby in 1942.

By now, you are probably wondering what happened to the well-known Theis Plumbing Company. Roger became a ner with Dad, Ed, and later purchased his father's interest.

Roger, well known and respected for his workmanship, closed out the business in 1971 because of ill health. Marlin e" Mork, a 15-year employee of Theis, set out on his own and has enjoyed a good business the past 10 years.

The Engesser building was sold by Roger and Marilyn Theis to Bob and Joann Witty who operate their laundry and mbing business out of the south portion. St. Peter Cablevision and the St. Peter NEW TIMES lease the northern part of the ding.

St. Peter is fortunate to have the Spiess & Coulter, Ole Mork, and Bob Witty Plumbing firms as vital businesses in our r-growing community.

ldner Construction Company

The Geldner Construction Company is located at 1203 South Front Street known to the old timers as "Cow" Street. Many ple who lived on the street years ago owned a cow and would pasture their animals below the bank on the flats acent to the Minnesota River.

The Geldner 30-foot by 80-foot building was part of the Engesser Brewery operation starting in 1856 prior to the Indian rising.

Bob Geldner, Jr., a 1959 graduate from St. Peter High School, worked for Komatz Construction Company before turing out on his own fifteen years ago.

His first equipment consisted of a Ford 8-N tractor and a 1950 Ford dump truck, which he has kept as a memento.

The company, as many successful enterprises, had a humble beginning. The first jobs consisted mainly of digging sewer es, excavating basements, and demolishing buildings.

In the summer the company employs 30 to 40 people to operate the four cats, six trenchers, six backhoes, a dozen pick-, twelve lowboys, and ten heavy-duty trucks.

Geldner has done work in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota plowing 600-800 miles of cable per year for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, Independent Telephone Company, and Rural Electrification Association. Bob says they can lay from eight to ten miles of cable per day. The largest job the firm has ever done was 200 miles of cable plowing at Jackson, Minnesota.

Usually the company operates with two crews. However, a few years ago the firm had three jobs going simultaneously at Detroit Lakes, Rush City, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Marvin Noyd, foreman, has been with the firm ten years. Rush Lind and Don McCullough are also foremen. Doug Odegard is the bookkeeper.

Bob, an avid race car enthusiast first entered competition 20 years ago with his buddy, Ron Neary, as the mechanic. His sprint car racing has taken him to Canada, Texas, Iowa, and the Dakotas. He will be racing his 800 horsepower Chevy in open competition in Tampa, Florida, for the fifth consecutive year. 120 cars enter the race with 20 finalists. For the fifth time Bob expects to be among the finalists.

He will pull his car on a trailer behind his motor home. On the trailer also will be a tank of alcohol to be used as fuel for his racing car. Bob sees no reason why alcohol cannot replace gasoline as a fuel in autos since racers have been using alcohol for years, and it's cheaper than gasoline.

Bob keeps his spirits up by being co-owner of the Flame Bar Lounge with Bob McGinn. While attending the Lincoln Grade School, Bob vowed that he would someday demolish the school. His dream came true to being when he leveled the school for Harold and Laurie Martin. He dug five basements for new houses at that location.

Not that Bob is adverse to education but he tore down a few other schools in nearby cities also.
As Dizzy Dean said, "If you've done-it ain't braggin!".

Klein Funeral Home

Klein Funeral Home, located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Traverse Road established in 1854, is one of St. Peter's oldest businesses.

Karl Klein's grandfather, William and great uncle John came to St. Peter from Schwartzwald (Black Forest), Germany, after staying for a few years in Jamestown, New York, the hub of colonial furniture.

Klein Furniture Factory was housed where the St. Peter Fire Department is now located. The factory was powered by a horse hitched to a long pole attached to a gearbox. The horse would walk in a circle creating power by much the same principle as used to thresh grain in the early days.

The Klein Retail Store stood in the vicinity of Swede's Meat Market. The building, along with many other buildings, was destroyed in 1887 by the worst fire in the history of St. Peter. The morning following the fire, Klein's and Jim Nutter (hardware) started excavating for new buildings in the 400-block west on Minnesota Avenue.

The second story of the Klein building, presently owned by Attorneys Gustafson, MacKenzie, & Lucas, was gutted by fire in 1965, while the Nutter Hardware building, owned by Darrell and Ione Foss (studio) was leveled in 1977 by an explosion.

Karl's father, Martin, while in his teens, took over the furniture factory, furniture store, and Greenhill Cemetery upon the death of his father in 1888. The furniture plant was sold to John Hulett and Associates. The Chamber Office graces furniture from both the Klein's and Hullet's.

Albert Woolson, the last of the union army Civil War veterans, who did the original work on the St. Peter Cornet Band Wagon, was an employee of Klein's Furniture factory shortly after the war.

It was customary for the furniture people to build coffins so, hence, Klein's got involved in the undertaking business. in, to up-date his career in the mortuary business, attended the Cincinnati School of Engineering and was one of the first stered embalmers in the state of Minnesota.

Without the least equivocation, the largest funeral ever held in St. Peter was that of St. Peter's fifth Governor of nesota, John A. Johnson, on Thursday, September 23, 1909. A special train from St. Paul brought his body, staff, and ads to St. Peter. Thousands of mourners lined the streets for the procession. I have pictures, taken in front of the Masonic lding in the 300-block west on Minnesota Avenue, of Klein's horse-drawn hearse bearing the Governor's body.

Black horses pulled the black hearse for the elderly and a gray hearse was used for the younger people. The horses e stabled in Klein's barn in the vicinity of the medical clinic on Third and Walnut.

Klein's first gas vehicle was that of a 1916 moon chassis with a "combination" body that stood eight feet high which was l as a hearse, a two-cot ambulance, and removable seats for eight people. The horse-drawn ornate and hand-carved rse was mounted on a Hudson Super Six in 1919-1920. A seven-passenger Kissell, with an all aluminum body, was an sual car used by Klein's for many years.

In the 1920s, the funeral operation was transformed from the home to funeral parlors (chapel concept).

Karl, third generation of Klein's, became owner upon death of his father, Martin, in 1946. The furniture business was in 1964 to Burt Dahlin and Ray "Buzz" Hoffmann, leaving Karl with the ambulance service, funeral business, Greenhill netery, and the position as Nicollet County Coroner.

Karl, aware of the new state and federal regulations, announced the discontinuance of the ambulance service. For a few es, the city was serviced out of Mankato before the St. Peter Volunteer Ambulance Service organized in 1972.

Anticipating the future growth of the St. Peter area, Karl built the present funeral home in 1961. In 1974, upon reaching age of retirement, he sold to IFS Associated, Inc. Orville Sietsema became manager, Robert Hamilton, Funeral Director, Karl in a lesser degree under the new owners.

The Greenhill Cemetery, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization started by Klein & Friends in the 1860's, was sold six rs ago to George and Mary Meyer.

Employees of Klein's, well-known to the community over the years have included Andrew Wiberg, Bengt Bengtson, rman Kemmits, John Swensk (Cliff Mollert's uncle), Art "Butts" Miller, Ted Jackson, George Norman, Bill Johnson, rence A. Johnson (Burt Johnson's father), Curt Albrecht, Babe Kayser, Wendy Keim, and Earl Skranstad.

Bob La Mere, Burt Dahlin, Harold McAdams, and Elden Egesdahl are former employees who went into business for nselves.

As a kid, I remember that our first milk delivery at 5:00 a.m. was at the Klein Home on Washington and Fort Road ace Street) about the same time the late Mark Schaus was delivering papers. Karl or his father would be coming home m a pick-up so we knew first hand who had passed away.

In Governor Johnson's day, Klein's would have the graves dug by pick and shovel and the casket lowered by men lding the reins from the harnesses off the horses. Today, modern machinery does it all.

In many families, the same committal ritual has been used for generations, but the most comforting words to me were m an article in Reader's Digest by Revered Norman Vincent Peale found in a recently departed loved one's memoirs itled "There Is No Death".

Webster Brothers, Inc. ✍

The Webster Brothers (Elroy, Douglas, and Robert), own and operate the Webster Moving Company and farm 2000 acr in New Sweden and Bernadotte townships, with Doug living behind the Bernadotte Lutheran Church adjacent to one of the world's busiest airports, "Bernadotte International".

The brothers are the third generation of Websters engaged in the moving of buildings, boilers, presses, lathes, and machinery. Their grandfather A. W. (Adolph) started the business nearly 100 years ago. He would fell and trim cottonwood trees to be used as skids to move buildings across the frozen fields, drawn by 16 to 32 horses.

In yesteryears buildings were raised from their foundations by horse and capstan (pole-hub and rope for cable). The horse would walk in a circle to power the winch. Naturally this was done before the days of O. S. H. A. Today, a hydraulic jack raises and lowers the buildings with 6 x 6's used for cribbing on 16-inch square timbers 40-50 feet long.

In 1957 the Webster brothers' father, Elroy, Sr. (second generation) lost his life while moving a house. The electrical firm employees failed to turn off the power after saying they had. They were indeed witnesses to the tragedy. Can you imagine the lawsuit the Webster's would have had against the electrical company this day and age?

The largest building the firm ever moved was a 40 x 80-foot dormitory at Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm. They turned the building around and moved it a block.

The smallest building moved happened to be the 8 x 12-foot fish house, owned by Trinity man's Tuesday Club. The building was moved from the rear of Trinity Church to Lake Emily under the supervision of L. A. (Lanky) Lavine and the late Carl J. Lund. The Websters moved all the houses off Trinity lots to make room for the Estate Apartments and the new parking lot. Elroy said they had an abundance of sidewalk engineers and bequeathed a hammer to Pastor Herb Gustafson a a souvenir. I trust Herb still uses the hammer wisely,

The farthest the Websters moved a house was from Sanborn to Cleveland, a distance of 112 miles (avoiding bridges, trestles, and towns). They also moved houses from St. James to Worthington and from Marshall to Milroy.

In New Ulm, they moved a kennel of 75 barking toy dogs three miles, while at Nicollet, they moved a building housing several hundred singing canaries across town for Bill Gronholz.

City, county, and state permits are required with state licenses under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota State Public Service. Major expenses enjoyed by the Company are Liability Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, and gasoline. O. S. H. A. carefully inspects their cable clamps and fire extinguishers while on the job.

Two large tandem trucks and three pickup trucks are used to tow and transport equipment and haul grain from their farms. The Websters have enough equipment to support seven buildings of various sizes simultaneously. Moving is at a standstill from March 15 to May 15 due to road conditions.

In the family operation, Elroy is the moving supervisor with Doug and Bob handling the agricultural management. Doug and Bob's sons, when helping out, are the fourth generation of the moving Websters.

The Webster brothers are active in community affairs such as Bob being chairman of the Farmers Coop Elevator in Lafayette, Doug is on the board of education in Winthrop, and Elroy has been secretary of the Coop Oil Association in Gaylord since 1964. Elroy also serves as chairman of the Building Committee for the new Scandia Grove Lutheran Church. Grandfather Fredrick built the first Bernadotte Lutheran Church in 1872. The Church was sponsored by the Scandia Grove congregation at a cost of $3400. Fredrick's brother, Frank, had the honor of building the Scandia Grove Church that was recently destroyed by fire.

My late mother taught Elroy Sr., Archie, and Lucille Websters, Abrahamsons, and Lunds 65 years ago at District #65 in New Sweden. Lucille (Mrs. Erwin Sandeen) vividly remembers that my mother would have the entire school in tears when she read "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Dad, while courting her, would drive horse and buggy or sleigh 17 miles one way to pick up his loved one to take her to the Pell home in Traverse. It must have paid off, as they would have been married 64 years on March 21.

The Websters, Senator Oscar Swenson, Sam Haugdahl (world's buttermaking champion at Paris, France, in 1900), and y other pioneers helped put New Sweden on the map. It took just one employee from the Minnesota State Highway artment to take the name off for two years.

Bob said that he and his wife, Donna, will be looking forward to playing on the two-time champion New Sweden Co-Ed ball Team when they defend their title in the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce Independence Day Picnic. "Langt leva Sweden!"

Swartout, Inc.

The Swartout Construction firm, started by the late Ed Swartout, had a humble beginning in 1926. Ed, lover of horses owner of a hundred ponies at one time, used horses to scrape gravel into the trap or conveyor.

The firm is located three miles south of St. Peter on Highway 22, across the road from the once popular Jerry Lynch's tal Ballroom. The ballroom, which was destroyed by fire, cause unknown in 1946, billed such well known bands as Al ke, Bobby Griggs, Cecil Hurst, to whom many local people danced.

The first gas power vehicle used by Swartout was a secondhand 1922 Model T Ford, with a box capacity of a yard and a The shiny red truck adorns the shop as a reminder of the early days. The spic and span truck is remindful of the tender that Ron Neary gives the St. Peter fire trucks.

The Company purchased a 1933 long wheelbase, ton and a half Chevrolet as business grew. At the peak of the Swartout ation, they had a fleet of 40 trucks.

Ed's brother Ernie, foreman of the operation, has been with the firm since 1945, and is a highly recognized man in his l.

A few years after Ed's death in 1976, his wife, Vera, disposed of the business to son Jim. Jim's sister, Janet Tonneson, is etary treasurer, and Merlin Stolt, with the company since 1955, is responsible for the office

The firm contracts for Kasota gravel Class 1 or 5, for surfacing roads mainly in the Blue Earth and LeSueur Counties. In winter, the equipment is used for the removal of snow at the Mankato Airport, and James, Lime and other townships.

In 1969 fire destroyed a portion of the shop and two motor graders when after plowing snow, a grader started in gear self. With building additions in 1960, 1967, and 1969, the shop office reached a total size of 122 x 120 feet.

In addition to the trucks, the equipment consists of two Galion motor graders, bulldozers, backhoe, dragline, conveyors, kers, Cedar Rapids crusher and many other items.

The 25-acre plot where the building equipment is located was once a 40-foot high embankment from the east road to re the west bank is now. The company not only removed millions of yards of gravel, but improved the site with ronmental landscaping.

The GE commercial business radio band keeps the employees in touch, with the main office. Radio communications been picked up as far away as Glenwood and Lake Mille Lacs.

Ernie said gasoline was once 14 cents per gallon and top labor in 1955 was $1.50 per hour. Today, fuel and labor are of the biggest expenses. Jim has the highest praise for his employees and rates them second to none.

The company proudly cherishes the citation plaque issued to Swartouts by the U. S. Corps of Engineers for their work ng the Mankato flood in 1965. The Swartout Company is under the jurisdiction of the Mines Safety and Health Act and holds an annual safety course for the employees.

Jim and Ernie hesitate to give a ballpark figure on the number of loads of gravel and snow the Company has hauled e its humble beginning. Ernie said, "It's a heck of a lot!"

Pehrson Hyline Farm And Pehrson Long View Farm

Hyline Farm

Richard and Jerry (Hook) Pehrson's Hyline Farm is located in Lake Prairie Township. It was thus named because a Northern States Main HyLine and R. E. A. (Benco) line run directly over the farm.

Father, Franklin (Shorty) and Kathryn started a herd with three registered heifers that they had when they ceased operating the Nicollet County Poor Farm (Home for the Aged) in Granby Township.

In 1965, Shorty sold all of his cows and quit milking, but kept thirty heifers. In 1967, he built a free-stall milking parlor for 80 cows and a 20' x 60' cement silo for corn silage and was back in the dairy business.

The following year, Rich, who was 1962 Minnesota State FFA Farmer winner, purchased half interest in the dairy operation and they were milking 35 cows. The Pehrsons purchased a second silo in 1970. This was a 16' x 50' stave silo for high moisture corn.

The operation was again expanded in 1977 with 40 free-stalls for dry cows and bred heifers, a straw shed, a maternity barn with eight pens and another 20' x 60' stave silo. The same year Gerald purchased the elder Pehrson's interest. At this time, they were milking 75 cows, which were producing 15,000-lbs. milk and 500-lbs. butterfat.

In 1978, the brothers started to milk three times daily, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. When they went to milking three times, the average production of the 80 cow Holstein herd went from 15,000 lbs. and 500 lbs. butterfat to 17,500 lbs. and 60 lbs. butterfat.

In 1979, Pehrsons put up a fourth silo, a 21' x 35' Seal Store, and also installed a pit slurry system to handle all the manure. A honey wagon is used to transport the liquid fertilizer and inject it into the ground. They use a Conde pipeline milking system with a 1,500-gallon bulk tank and sell their milk to Oak Grove.

Gerald handles the cropping of the 240 acres and herd replacement. He also does the milking every other night. Rich handles most of the milking and says that three times a day develops a healthy herd and a larger return on their investment. In 1979, the Pehrsons had the top five producing cows in Nicollet County. The herd average was 17,200-lbs. milk and 612-lbs. butterfat from 81 cows.

The Pehrsons have won equally as many dairy awards as they had in high school wrestling. The brothers and their children have competed and won county, state and national awards. They exhibited their Junior Yearling Bull (Pehrson HyLine Elevation Ideal) at the World Dairy Expo in 1979 at Madison, Wisconsin. After competing against cattle from all over the U.S. and Canada, the bull was named the Reserve All-American Junior Yearling Bull.

Nancy (Benson) and Rich's boys, Pat, Todd, Chad and Wade, have exhibited and won many awards. Mitzi, at 1 years, is anxiously waiting in the wings for the day when she can also exhibit. Von (Hill) and Jerry's son Adam, at six years old, has won awards at the Nicollet County Fair, while Amy exhibited her first calf at the Nicollet County Fair in 1979 at the age of 3.

Longview Farm

Franklin Pehrson, Jr. and wife, Geri's Long View Farm is located in Oshawa Township, just a short distance from the Wenner's Oshawa Elevator complex. Their dairy operation was started in 1962 on a 120-acre farm, which had been owned by Geri's father, Melville and his father before him. The Pehrsons and their daughter Kris, do all the work on the farm, including milking 30 cows.

They have also been successful in showing cattle, having won several awards in 1978 and 1979. Their bull, Long View Astro Elvis received Reserve All-American Award in 1978. On May 9, 1980, Elvis was chosen Grand Champion Bull at the Ontario Spring Show. Kris has had her own honors by being the only multiple winner in the Junior District Black & White Show.

The Pehrson milk with a bucket type system and sell to AMPI. In 1977, the herd produced 17,944-lbs. milk and 665-lbs. butterfat. In 1979, their herd was classified 6th highest in the State.

They have found that income from milking is almost secondary to the selling of their registered livestock. In the past, have even sold to Korea, Italy, France and Japan. Much of their trading is done with Hanover Hill Farms out of New k.

Rich, Jerry and Franklin, Jr. have said that they must give much of the credit for their success to their parents and also to r high school Ag instructor, Casey Dowling.

The Pehrsons have come a long way since father, Shorty, was playing centerfield for Traverse Baseball Team in the early 0's and was making his Willy Mays basket catches. Shorty says that there was a little more skill involved when playing in ntry pastures compared to the plush ballparks today.

. Peter Public And Parochial Schools

e First Public Schools–Nineteenth Century

The history of the school system of St. Peter is synonymous with that of the City of St. Peter and the State of Minnesota. nry A. Swift, Horace Austin, and Andrew R. McGill, Esq., later governors from St. Peter, were influential in starting a good cational system in St. Peter.

The first school in the area was in Traverse des Sioux with the beautiful Lizzie Cullen and Zuriel S. Gault as prominent hers in those early years, according to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee in 1930.

The St. Peter Tribune, in 1860, records the first school in St. Peter, and one of the best, was that of the school located in First Episcopal Church built in 1857. Hannah O'Brien, according to an article in the Diamond Jubilee, attended the ool, as did Governor John A. Johnson. Mrs. W. B. Dodd (wife of Captain William B. Dodd, founder of St. Peter) who was ucated in the east, was the teacher who taught the 25 students.

The first public school of St. Peter District No. 1, Oshawa Township, was created by proclamation on April 14, 1865. For ne unknown reason, Henry A. Swift had to resign from the board as he failed to qualify according to law. Horace Austin ame the president of the board; Thomas C. Wright (Bob's great-great grandfather), clerk; and Andrew R. McGill, first erintendent. Reverend Edward Livermore (Episcopal) and Reverend A. W. Kerr (Presbyterian) clergymen, were the her examiners. The first public school, according to Hannah, was in a warehouse near the Charles Brinker Woolen Mill t. Peter. The district built a school at the corner of Walnut and Fifth Streets where the John Ireland School now stands. ording to minutes supplied me by Eunice Holz, Administrative Assistant of District 508, the school building property was to the Catholic Bishop of Minnesota for the sum of $562.50. The building was then purchased by Ed Bornemann, who ved the building to Front Street in the 100-block east next to Headlee's.

In 1870, the Central Annex was built at a cost of $15,000 and this housed all grades, 1 through 12. The building, through efforts of the Arts and Heritage Council, has been nominated for the National Historic Registry.

St. Peter outgrew the Central School, thus necessitating a school in the south end of the city. The Washington mentary School, located in the southwest corner of the eleven-acre Minnesota Square (Swede Park) was built in 1897 for 000, the same cost of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in 1869.

blic Schools in the Twentieth Century

A new high school (now called Central Elementary) was constructed in 1907 at a cost of $35,000 and housed students m grades 9 through 12. St. Peter lost the Lincoln Elementary School by fire in 1913. A new school was immediately built cost of $16,439.

The voters of the school district passed a referendum in 1926 for the building of a new auditorium and classrooms nnected to the old high school to the west. The building was constructed in 1927 by Eric Carlstrom at a cost of $120,000. e land cost was another $10,000. The building is now known as the Central Elementary School.

More important than the buildings, were Helen Bornemann, Hattie Johnson (Governor's sister), Eliza Peterson, and Edith hl who taught in the school system a half century.

The Kasota School District was merged with the St. Peter School District #508 in 1952. The Kasota school building and Washington Elementary School were later demolished.

A new high school was constructed in 1956, after several referendums, in the old gravel pit site north of Grace Street at a cost of $1,183,655. An addition to the high school was built in 1964 at a cost of $582,540. The junior-senior high school houses students from grades 7 through 12.

North Elementary School

When North Elementary was constructed at a sum of $6,424,731 in 1966, the Lincoln Elementary School property was sold to Harold and Laurie Martin for $10,000. The Martins razed the school and built six homes on the propert which was located on Chestnut and Fourth Streets.

In 1980, a milestone was reached when a referendum passed for a $900,000 high school indoor pool and $200,000 for remodeling the theater.

Interesting Facts

Board minutes have revealed some interesting facts. Board meetings were held in May, June, and July of 1867 with all members present; but with "nothing to do", and so they adjourned. This is a far cry from the regular and special meetings today.

The teachers were also hired at the pleasure of the board. Father and sons were prominent on the board. Dr. F. P. Strathern and E. C. Davis spent many years together on the board, as did Dr. C. S. Strathern and E. Clayton Davis. Dr. E. G. Olmanson and son Don served on the board with Don presently serving as co-chairman.

The Present

St. Peter High School

To date, District 508 encompasses 47,412 acres in Nicolle County and 22,577 in Le Sueur County. The total school enrollment is presently at the 1,965 figure. 241 people are employed in the district. The proposed expenditures for the 1980-81 school year are $6,930,198.

A co-op education building, located near Highway 22 North, is a separate facility serving Cleveland, Nicollet, Le Center, and St. Peter.

District 508 schools, under Superintendent Lester R. Swartwood and a very able school board has progressed steadily over the years. As chamber manager, I find it gratifying to tell prospective St. Peterites that we have the best in public and parochial schools.

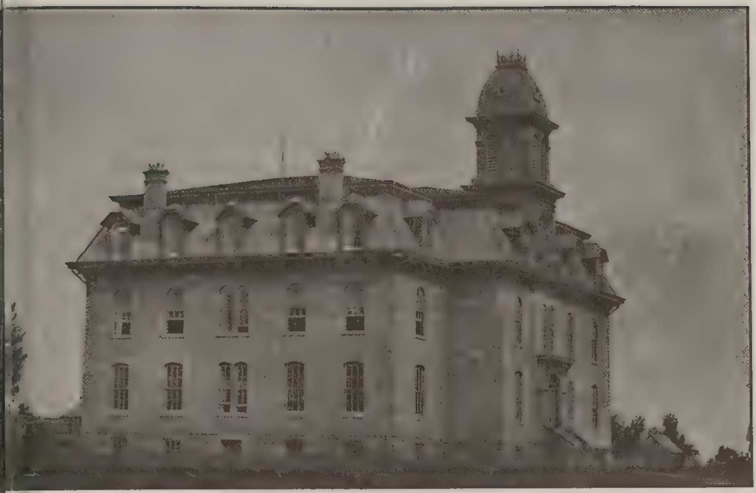
South Elementary School

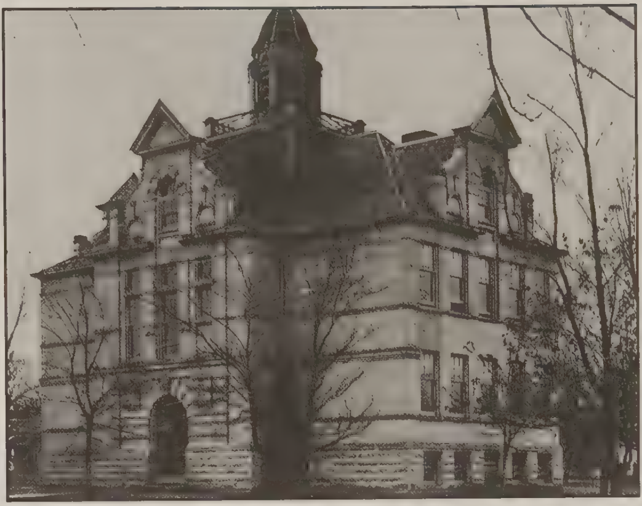
The South Elementary School is located in what was once known as the St. Peter State Hospital pasture. A generation ago, a large herd of beautiful Holsteins grazed the hills where the school now stands. This unique, round school, the newest of all St. Peter schools, was built in 1970 at a cost of $1,547,000 passed a referendum vote by a margin of four to one. The new South Elementary School replaced the Kasota and Washington Elementary Schools, now demolished.

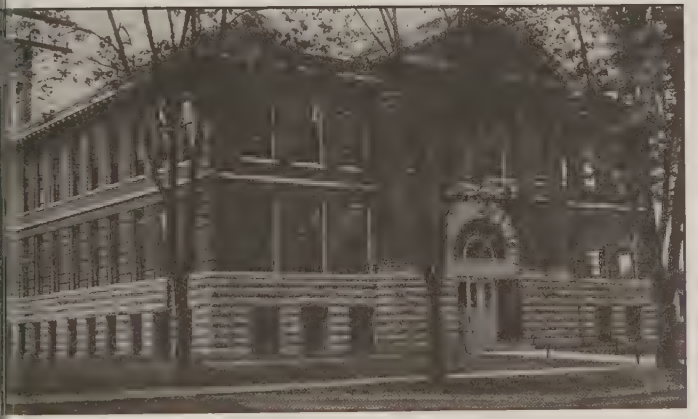
South Elementary School

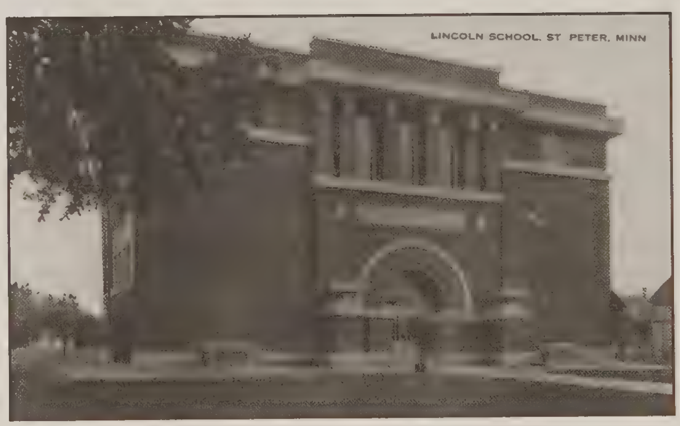
John Ireland School

The John Ireland Parochial School brochure states, "We believe that with the exception of the home, the Catholic school is the best place for children to receive a valuable education by teachers who recognize that they are to teach as Jesus did and count God in".


Old Central School 1870


Washington School 1897


Old High School 1907


LINCOLN SCHOOL, ST. PETER, MINN
Lincoln School 1913

John Ireland School 1925

The Centennial Book of the Church of St. Peter, edited by Bob Theurer, reveals that in 1863, Professor Caminsky, under Father John Zuzek, conducted the first Catholic Parochial School in a building situated north of the old State Theater. There were 120 children in the school and it continued for three years. The sisters of Notre Dame, upon their arrival, assumed the teaching and running of the boarding school with students coming from mission areas until 1877, when the Sisters of St. Francis followed.

In 1870, when the old Central Annex was built (now proposed to be preserved as a landmark by the Arts and Heritage Council), the old public school building was purchased for the sum of $562.50 by Bishop Thomas L. Grace to be used as a parochial school.

When Father Carey became priest of St. Peter's in 1892, the school was closed and the building sold. The Catholic children from St. Peter's were enrolled at St. Mary's Church School, built in 1891. This was two years after the German Catholics received permission from the Archbishop Ireland to leave St. Peter's and start their own congregation.

In building St. Mary's School, according to Father R. A. Neudecker in the Golden Jubilee of 1939, Father Leopold Hass, the second priest in charge, raised $3,000 to construct a two-story, wooden framed school building measuring twenty-six by sixty feet. The school was located at the corner of Mulberry and Third Streets, kitty corner from St. Mary's Church. The old St. Mary's School building was purchased by Pete Walter and a duplex was built on the same location with the lumber. The new school was placed in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minnesota.

The Life of John Albert Johnson, by Day and Knappen, mentions John's courtship with the music and drawing teacher at St. Mary's by the name of Elinore Preston. In 1894, bashful John, prodded by Sister Superior, succumbed and generated enough courage to marry Nora Preston at the residence of Reverend Patrick Carey.

The St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee of 1930, by editor Edward A. Johnson, stated, "In 1914, during the pastorate of Reverend David J. Moran at St. Peter's Catholic Church, the parochial school was again opened in the old convent building and was operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Paul".

The Reverend H. R. Jordan, St. Peter's and the Reverend J. M. Malmer, St. Mary's came to the conclusion in 1925 that there was a need for a new school for both parishes. The old convent site, south of St. Peter's Church was chosen for the new school, named after the first Archbishop of St. Paul, John Ireland. Otto Neitge, who was contractor the St. Peter's Church in 1911, received the John Ireland construction contract. Other subcontractors included R. W. Maltby, plumbing and heating; Joe Mitchell (Bob Edward's grandfather), plastering; W. E. (Bill) Thomas (father of Cobby), Howard and Peg Waltman), the painting; Johnson & Seitzer (Jim Seitzer's father), the hardware. The school cost $46,000 and consisted of a full basement with fully equipped dining hall, kitchen and main floor with six classrooms and an auditorium through its center. The old school was sold to Ed McGraw and is now used as a residence.

Since the school was built, the gym doors have been open for youngsters of all faiths. Many good athletes have developed through the years because of the generosity of the nuns.

The Knights of Columbus, No. 1509, held their stated meeting in one room of the school until crowded conditions, due to increased enrollment, necessitated the council to move to the basement of St. Peter's Church.

Father Raymond F. Rypel arrived in 1955, succeeding Father James Ryan who had built the school enrollment to around the 375 figure. A new convent and new classrooms were much needed, resulting in a new addition to the school on the west. Four large classrooms and new basement rooms were ready for occupancy at the start of the 1956-57 school year and the convent opened in January of 1957.

The late Harding Fredericksen was awarded the general contract for both of the buildings at a cost of $210,000. Ritt Electric Center, Klein Furniture (Buzz Hoffmann and Burt Dahlin), North Star Concrete, St. Peter Ready Mix and other firms served as sub-contractors.

The school, now under the auspices of the order of the Sisters of Notre Dame, consists of student from Kindergarten through sixth grades. Sisters Alene Kuhm and Delores Bovey, Mrs. Rosie Johnson, Mary Kelly, Mary McCormick, Mary Dierks, Mrs. Mike Miner, and Mrs. Robert Woods ably assist Sister Irene Komer, who is the principal. Father Myles McGowan and Father Harry Majerus are pastors of St. Peter's and St. Mary's, the two parishes that support the school. Also, let us not forget Father Eugene Hackert, who was recently assigned to Olivia and the "Little House on the Prairie" town, Walnut Grove, as he did much while he was here at St. Mary's.

I must confess that the above information was taken from the Church of St. Peter Centennial of 1956 by Bob Theurer, Reverend R. A. Neudecker's Golden Jubilee of 1939 of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Early History of St. Peter's Churches, by Herb Filler, the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee of 1930, and the Life of John Albert Johnson by Day and Knappen.

Annexstad's Lake Park Farm

The Annexstad Lake Park Farm is located ten miles west of St. Peter and two miles southeast of the hamlet of Norseland, the Lutefisk Capitol of the U.S.A.

The farm, owned by Martin Annexstad Jr., and son Grant, is the farm Martin Sr. and wife, Hattie, carved out of the John Annexstad farms (Martin Sr.'s father). Martin Sr., who will be 100 years old on January 8th, said the Annexstad name was originally Anderson, but they took the name Annexstad whom John worked for in Norway. In 1974, Marty and daughter Karen had the pleasure of visiting the Annexstad farm near Gjovik, Norway.

In 1914, the Martin Annexstad Srs. built a beautiful huge home in a grove of Oak, Basswood and Pine trees looking over a scenic small private lake, thus the name Lake Park Farm.

Martin, Jr. received the first of his many honors while a member of the Norseland 4-H club with a second place at the Nicollet County Fair with his Chester White Gilt.

Marty, a 1933 graduate of St. Peter High School, vividly recalls playing on the 1932 high school basketball team that won the District 13 tournament and went to the regionals at Macalaster College in St. Paul.

In 1936, Marty returned to Lake Park upon graduation from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture, St. Paul Campus. Marty's first venture was 75 hogs. Today, he and Grant raise commercially 600-650 Durocs, Hampshires and Yorks yearly.

Martin has been selling to commercial buyers for years, remembering specifically selling 25 gilts to Gary and Pat Davis when they began their hog operation.

The Annexstad's also use the New Ulm Testing Station for results in feed conservation and genetic ability. This past summer, the Annexstad's had the Grand Champion Barrow at the New Ulm Station. Grant says all hogs are vacinnated for psuedo rabies and lepto before breeding time.

The Annexstad hog complex consists of two farrowing barns, one finishing barn and five huts that are used for breeding stock.

Martin and Grant have 500 acres under plow, raising corn, soybeans and oats. The oats are grown mostly for the piglets.

Martin was one of the five winners in a contest that was sponsored by the Fizer Chemical Company and he had the opportunity to tour Denmark, England, France, Germany and Norway.

Marty says that there is a difference in marketing the European and U.S. hogs. The hogs in Europe are on limited feed, receiving 80 percent of what they can eat and are finished off at 210 pounds, otherwise they are penalized price-wise by the government. The U.S. hogs are in contrast marketed a little heavier, between 220 and 240 pounds.

The honors bestowed upon Martin since his 4-H days reminds one of a "Who's Who." He is a past president of the Norseland 4-H and Nicollet County 4-H Clubs. For the past 15 years he has been a director of the Nicollet County Fair Board. He is vice president and director of the Nicollet Co-op Oil Company, has been a member of the Nicollet County

Extension Service Board for 25 years, is a director of the Minnesota Agri Interpretive Center in Waseca, advisor of the Ag Production Committee - University of Minnesota - Waseca, past president of the Nicollet County Farm Bureau, and president of the Minnesota Pork Producers. He is also a past president of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, state director of National Livestock and Meat Board, and chairman of the pork division, past president of the Minnesota Sanitary Board (now the State Animal Health Board), and on the advisory committee to the dean at the University of School of Veterinary Medicine.

Martin and Grant received the Commercial Producer of the Year Award in 1978 in St. Louis. In 1979, the Annexstads had the Grand Champion Barrow at the Minnesota State Fair. In 1980, they received a silver tray for the Grand Champion Carcass at the Minnesota Spring Barrow Show. In the bi-centennial year of 1976, Martin Jr. was inducted into the coveted Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame.

For the past 20 years, the Annexstads have been one of the many hog raising families that have helped to make the Chamber of Commerce Indian Summer Market Hog Show a success. Marty was honored in 1979 by the chamber for 45 years of service to the community.

Martin's wife, Eleanor, passed away in 1966, leaving him with three children. Daughter Karen is married to Reverend Charles Humphrey with a pastorate at Dassel. Mark is a realtor in Shakopee and Grant is at home.

With all of these accomplishments, no wonder Gary Davis remarked, "Marty is truly top shelf".

St. Peter Barristers ✍

The history of St. Peter Barristers has played an important role in the development of St. Peter. Records show that Governor Willis A. Gorman, Henry Swift, Horace Austin, Andrew McGill and Lieutenant Governor Gideon S. Ives were of the legal profession, with Austin also serving as a judge.

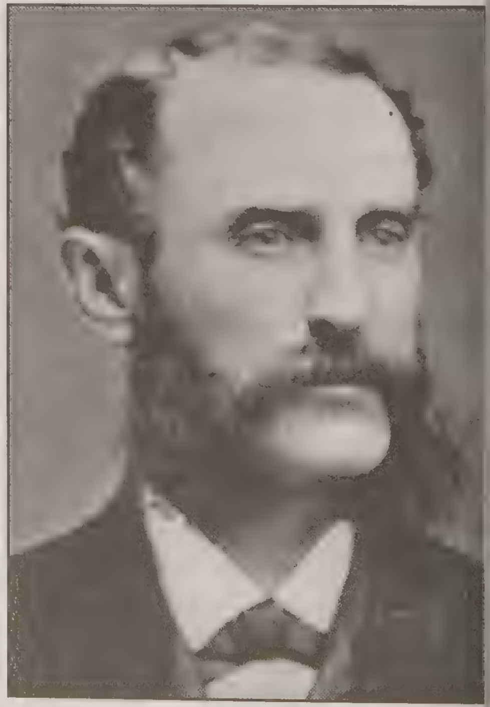
Judge Charles E. Flandreau, an attorney for the St. Peter company in 1854, was appointed attorney for the St. Peter Land Company. From 1857-1864 he was associate justice of the Supreme Court and he was appointed judge advocate general of the State of Minnesota in 1858. Flandreau was in charge of the defense forces in 1862 at New Ulm when attacked by the Sioux, headed by Chief Little Crow. Flandreau was successful in evacuating 2,000 men, women and children from the New Ulm area to Mankato and St. Peter during the Indian uprising.

Of all the attorneys in St. Peter over the years, E. St. Julien Cox would have to be considered the most colorful and controversial. He was the first mayor of St. Peter and a close friend of Captain William B. Dodd. Cox was with Capt. Dodd at the time of Dodd's death in the battle of New Ulm. Cox was also a vestryman of the Church of the Holy Communion, and a member of Nicollet Lodge No. 54 AF & AM. This brilliant but eccentric attorney's actions were not wholly in accord with the rules and regulations set forth by the members of the church and lodge brethren.

Cox was elected as a state representative in 1873 and became a district judge in 1877, an office from whence he was removed. This action was rescinded by the legislature years later in 1891. To his credit he became a teetotaler.

Cox's grandson, Norman C. Gault, also practiced as a barrister in St. Peter. His office was in the Dick's Clothing Store building, now occupied by Ben Franklin. He also served as city clerk and city attorney and was the third generation of the Cox-Gault family to serve on the city council. His mother, Mrs. A. K. Gault, served as the first woman mayor in Minnesota in 1921.

Azro A. Stone had the dubious honor of having served as sheriff, county attorney, and later as clerk of court in Nicollet County. In 1874, Stone was



St. Julien Cox
First mayor of St. Peter - 1865.

admitted to the bar and formed a partnership with the well-known Sumner Ladd. He served as mayor in 1879. In 1908 his son Marshall joined him in the legal profession. Marshall also served as city attorney from 1910 to 1930.

Charles R. Davis, a three-term city attorney from 1870 to 1885 before becoming congressman in 1892. L.J. Gault, former president of the Nicollet County Bank and father of Z.S. (Sam) Gault, was an attorney who served Davis in Washington, D.C. before his appointment to Postmaster in St. Peter. According to William Gresham's history, the lawyers listed in St. Peter in 1916 were Honorable C.R. Davis, Honorable Henry Benson, Sr., Marshall Stone, George T. Olsen, L.J. Gault and R.G. Anderson.

George T. Olsen, born in Lake Prairie township, a former city attorney in Springfield, and Brown County attorney, became a partner of Charles R. Davis in 1926. George T. and his wife, Stella, purchased the John A. Johnson house at 418 North Third Street when John A. was elected Governor of Minnesota. After Azro A. Stone's death, Olsen was named to replace him as Nicollet County attorney and was re-elected several times.

Henry Benson, Sr. was born in Lake Prairie township. He attended and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College (GAC). He was on the board of directors for over a third of a century. He was elected attorney and city clerk, and served from 1898 to 1911. He was elected to the State Senate in 1910. Benson was elected Attorney General in 1930 and turned over his business the same year to Thorild Peterson. When Benson later returned to St. Peter, Peterson went to GAC in 1940 as a professor in the business and economic department.

His son Henry Benson Jr., returned to St. Peter in 1945 after serving in World War II to join his father in the law practice. He, like his father before him was on the GAC board of directors and became city attorney succeeding L.O. Anthony. He also served as Nicollet County judge for 18 years. He is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and served many years on the board of directors at the First National Bank. Alma Daehn served as a faithful secretary for the Benson firm for over a quarter of a century.

Another colorful attorney was A.L. McConville, who married Edna Engesser, from one of St. Peter's earliest and most prominent families. "Mac" was county attorney and practiced in the upstairs of the family-owned building, now occupied by the Embassy Bar. It was not uncommon for Mac to be singing the Notre Dame fight song after a Saturday victory. He was a staunch supporter of the Irish.

Robert Schmitz was born in New Ulm, the city that St. Peter volunteers saved in the 1862 Indian uprising. How well I remember while refereeing there when he was the waterboy for the New Ulm Eagles. Robert purchased the Henry Benson Jr. Law practice when Henry became the Nicollet County judge. He also became city attorney in the year 1964 and has held the office since that time. The office was located upstairs in the old First National Bank building until they put up a building at their present headquarters. They are at this time constructing an addition for more office space. Bob had the distinction of being classmate in the law school of three well-known politicians: former Governor and Senator Wendy Anderson, Attorney General Warren Spannaus, and Senator Dave Durenberger.

Greggory J. Woods became a partner of Schmitz in 1971. Greggory has served as past president and director of the Chamber, past president and director of United Way, and drive chairman. He also was appointed as one of the two attorneys to serve on a special review board with the Department of Welfare. He is presently the secretary of the St. Peter Community Development Corporation, assistant to the City of St. Peter attorney, attorney of Kasota, and a member of the elite order of the Ambassadors. Gregg has been given an ultimatum by Mayor Doug Pyan that Gregg should improve his July 4th record as manager of the St. Peter co-ed softball team, or he will have plenty of time for his hobby of skydiving.

Ellery Peterson is a CPA who serves as a consultant with the Schmitz and Woods firm, and is also chairman of the economic and business department and the faculty senate at GAC, from whence he graduated. Ellery is the treasurer and a board member of the St. Peter Community Development Corporation since its conception in 1963. He was a city alderman and a president of the Chamber in 1967.

Malcom MacKenzie, a third generation of attorneys, came to St. Peter in 1951, and was associated with the firm of Stone, Anthony and MacKenzie. He later shared offices with his cousin, attorney William MacKenzie, from 1953 to 1954. In 1954 he bought out the practice from Bill and practiced alone until 1962, when he and W.M. Gustafson formed a partnership. Malcom was county attorney from 1955 to 1966. Malcom comes from a long line of legislators, for his great-grandfather, Malcom, a farmer from Le Sueur County, was state representative from Sibley County and passed a bill to do away with hanging as capital punishment. His father, Claude, also an attorney, was a Minnesota state senator from Nicollet-Sibley County and Republican National Committee chairman when Herbert Hoover was nominated and elected president in 1926.

W.M. (Bill) Gustafson, a native St. Peterite, returned to his home town in 1954 to join Norman C. Gault, a long-time family in the legal profession. When Mr. Gault retired in 1957, Gus was alone until 1962 when he and Malcom joined forces. It was quite a relief for Alice Hinnenthal, long-time secretary, when they moved from the Gault building, now owned by Jerry Lunderberg and occupied by Country Garden, as Alice had to keep her overshoes on during the day and a heater at her feet. They purchased the Gilman Hanson building, now occupied by Dr. J.G. Sheehan and the St. Peter Chamber of Commerce. They later bought the old Klein Furniture and Undertaking building in 1967.

While at the Chamber building, Verda Beatty started for the firm and is now in her 17th year. Gus is presently attorney for the county of Nicollet and School District 508, is presently on the board of directors of the St. Peter Community Development Corporation and the Nicollet County Bank and presently directory of the Nicollet County Fair Board. The Nicollet County Fair Grounds should be very familiar to Bill, as he was the bat boy for the St. Peter town team in 1940 when we won the North Star Baseball Championship and the fair grounds was our home diamond.

Jerold M. Lucas joined the firm in December 1973. He graduated from St. Mary's College in Winona and received his degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. He apprenticed as a clerk for a Minneapolis law firm before coming to St. Peter to practice. He is presently assistant attorney for the St. Clair School District.

Warren E. Litynski received his degree from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and from Rochester Community College before graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1966. Since graduating he had been associated with MacKenzie and Gustafson until December of 1979 when he was appointed Nicollet County Special Assistant Attorney.

When Judge Litynski left in 1979, the MacKenzie, Gustafson and Lucas firm started looking for a replacement. In July of 1980 they hired Daniel J. Sheran, son of Chief Justice of Minnesota Supreme Court, as an associate. Dan graduated from St. Thomas Military Academy and received his law degree from Creighton University. He practiced in Mankato prior to coming to St. Peter. He is now Assistant County Attorney and has two brothers practicing law in Minnesota.

The firm also employs James S. Stenson, a CPA, who helps with their tax and estate work. Jim graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. His mother is the former Hildegarde Gustafson from Oshawa township. Jim is presently on the board of United Way of St. Peter and has been very influential in helping with the success of this organization.

Lorenzo O. (Tony) Anthony, St. Peter's third attorney from Lake Prairie township, became associated with the long-time Stone firm in 1935 after graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School. While a partner of Marshall Stone, L.O. became city attorney and served until 1949 when he was succeeded by Henry Benson, Jr.. Attorney Anthony served as president of the St. Peter Attorney's Association and was on the baseball board when St. Peter won the State Amateur Championship in 1955. Lorenzo purchased the Nutter Blacksmith Shop building in 1961. The Nutter building was where Barb Dybvig's grandfather Charles and father Cliff (before Cliff became Colonel in the U.S. Army) practiced their vocation. Barb's uncle Bill, a retired U.S. Major, received a well-rounded education listening to the tales at the blacksmith shop before entering West Point Military Academy. The L.O. Anthonys also own the building occupied by St. Peter Motor Parts, Bill Stransky, manager.

Marshall, who grew up as a kid next door to me, was named after Marshall Stone. He joined the firm in 1966 after graduating from Macalester College and William Mitchell Law School. Marshall, like his father, presently serves on the St. Peter baseball board, whose teams have been in the State tournament the last four years. Mrs. Howard (Ilene) Nelson, a secretary with the Anthony firm, has been with them for over three decades.

James Brandt, the fourth St. Peter attorney to be born in Lake Prairie township, was reared two miles north of Norseland and graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. He attended the University of Arkansas, graduating with a law degree in 1974. He was a devout Razorback fan while attending school. He became associated with the firm of Stone and Anthony in 1974 and moved into the St. Peter Savings and Loan building, which is the old Nicollet County Bank building, to practice on his own in 1978. He became Assistant Public Defender in 1976.

Yes, the St. Peter barristers have played a significant role in the city's growth since Judge A.G. Chatfield presided over the courts in this district in the pioneer days.

Bonnie's

Bonnie Dowling was born and reared in Sleepy Eye, a city named after the famous Chief Sleepy Eyes.

Bonnie met her husband Casey when he was an imported catcher for the Sleepy Eye baseball team in the Western Minnesota League after a brief stint with the Minneapolis Millers.

It was 30 years ago this fall that Bonnie arrived in St. Peter with Casey, who was hired as the high school agriculture instructor.

Having raised three daughters, Bonnie, with more time on her hands, started clerking in 1961 at Carlson's Apparel (where Aqua World is now located). In October of 1965, Carlson's moved into the masonic building in the 300 block of South Minnesota Avenue. Bonnie, having been a clerk for a decade at Carlson's, purchased the business from Doug Carlson in 1971.

In the past 20 years, Bonnie has seen all kinds of styles ranging from dresses to jeans, and today, of course, jeans are still a big item; however, people are once again buying clothing for the dressier look also.

Bonnie, the first female council person since Lillien Cox Gault (mayor in 1922) has paid her civic duties, which is one of the reasons why she was named to the 1981 "Who's Who of American Women". She was first elected to the city council in 1974 and was recently re-elected for another four years. She also represents the city on the Planning Commission, the Community Education Council, and the Board of Zoning Adjustments.

Bonnie has served as chairperson on the Retail Council and as past president of the Shoreland County Club Auxiliary.

It can be said without the least equivocation that Sleepy Eye's loss was St. Peter's gain.

Braun's

Mathew (Bud) Braun, a native of Wahpeton, North Dakota, knew what hard work was while growing up in the Flickertail state. He worked in the harvest fields and the family feed plant elevator before enrolling in the School of Science at Wahpeton for two years.

Bud, a farmer at heart, studied at the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture before entering the military and spending 30 months overseas.

In 1948, Bud and wife, Phyllis, avid hunters and fishing enthusiasts, opened a variety store in Nisswa on the banks of Nisswa Lake. Five years later, they built a Town and Country Store in the same block.

During the Minnesota centennial year of 1958, the Brauns purchased the Halvorson's store at 322 South Minnesota Avenue from Vic and Agnes Halverson, who had been in business in St. Peter since 1935.

Brauns outgrew their quarters and leased the building in 1979 to Teri Schmidt, owner and operator of the Bridal Manor. They moved next door into the Swedberg building. The Swedberg building was known by old timers as the J.B. Danby building and later the Schaefer Brothers building. Pete and John Schaefer owned and operated a drug store and newspaper stand in the building for over 50 years.

Former clerks that people might remember are Irene Seibert, Alice Hartman Johnson, Kate Baker Nolan, Kathy Regenscheid, Mary Mollert and Adeline Thisius, who formerly clerked for Halvorson's and still works part time for Braun's. Claire Hanson, who with husband Eddie, owned and operated the Gamble's store, is presently employed along with Joan Tate, Ione Nesheim, Donna Kowal and Darlene Germschied.

Bud has done his civic duty, having served as president of the chamber and chairman of the Retail Council. He was also a director of the Industrial Development Corporation and is a lecturer in his church.

The changes most notable to the Brauns in nearly a quarter of a century in St. Peter have been the removal of parking meters and more private and public parking lots, all for the betterment of the customers and owners.

Bunde's Specialty Shop

Leon and Elsie Bunde came to St. Peter in 1930 from Sisseton, South Dakota, the home of the Lowell Lundstrom Evangelists.

Leon was hired as a manager for the Red Owl store that was located in the south half of the John Engesser building at 119 West Park Row, now owned and occupied by Bob Witty's Laundromat and Plumbing Facility.

The Bundes who have been in business in St. Peter longer that anyone, remember when Miles Lunak opened his shoe repair shop the same year as they did. Miley, incidentally, has the distinction of being in the same business longer than any business person in St. Peter.

In 1937, the Bundes opened a Red & White store in the late Skoning Nelson building at 217 South Minnesota Avenue, now occupied by Joan Anderson's Magic Mirror Beauty Shop. Those were the days when grocery stores would be open on Saturday night until 11:00 p.m. or the last farmer out. Names on Bunde's Red & White payroll included Amelia Clasen, Marion and Curt Knight, Bob Leonard (Hazel Wettergren's father), Revee Strand, Lorraine Lund Pederson, Fredrick Johnson, Clem Gruber, Howdy McMillen, Dale Scholl, Howard Nystrom and many Gustavus Adolphus College students.

In 1950, the Bundes sold the grocery business to Erwin and Esther Foss and purchased Schleuder's (Dr. C.S. Strathern's uncle and aunt) Gift Shop at 308 South Minnesota. The building is now owned and occupied by Frani Anderson's Hallmark card shop. Margaret Swenson was a clerk when Bunde's took over and stayed on until her retirement.

Bunde's, in 1962, moved into the masonic building at 318 South Minnesota Avenue and purchsed Gracie Bowden's millinery business. They renamed the operation Bunde's Specialty Shop. Gracie Bowden, Agnes (Mrs. Herb) Filler, Anna (Mrs. E.C.) Davis, Doris (Mrs. Fred) Wetherill became employed at Bunde's until their retirement. Marcie Williams (Mrs Les) was employed for 13 years before moving with Les to DeForest, Wisconsin.

Present employees include Ellen (Mrs. Joe) Norman, Jackie (Mrs. Mark) Wettergren, Joan Moses and Pat (Sheehan) Pherson.

Leon has done his civic duties having served as alderman on the city council, Christmas Decoration Committee with Harry Kramer, and civic and fraternal organizations.

Leon says he is grateful for the 51 years in business and many loyal customers.

Burch's Shoes

Don Burch, a native of Mankato, sold his interest in Burch's Shoes on October 1 to Ed Odegaard and his wife, Charlotte. Ed apprenticed at Hart's Department Store in Elbow Lake selling shoes before coming to St. Peter and has been with Burch's for 13 years.

Don stayed with an aunt while working his way through school at the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Before going into business, Don was a teacher, principal and superintendent in Iowa schools. He then joined his father, Harry, and brother, Les, in the implement business in Mankato.

In 1953, Don, upon reading an advertisement in the Mankato Free Press, purchased the John Nelson Shoe business. The business was located in the old Nicollet County Bank building (now St. Peter Savings and Loan) where Hawkins Jewelry is presently located.

In 1953, Don moved to the Walter building at 302 South Minnesota Avenue where Hinnenthal and Stindt Hardware Store was located before they moved their business to the Odd Fellows building. In 1973, Burch's purchased and remodeled the Walter building.

The Burch building has sentimental memories to the Wettergrens as Uncle Charlie operated a restaurant there in the early 1900's and Uncle Carl Gustafson had a saloon until prohibition in 1919 put him out of business.

When Adolphson Shoes closed out in 1965, Burch was left with the only exclusive shoe store in St. Peter.

In his 28 years of business, Don estimates a ballpark figure of having sold 275,000 to 300,000 shoes with no less than 12 part time GAC students among his regular employees. Some of the people employed by Don over the years have been David Johnson, Tom Witty, Dean Greenig, David Mikelson, Scott Dobie, Bruce Santleman, John Ehlers and Jean McClellan. The store presently employs Elaine Bonnema, Chris Fruth and Marily Siskonen.

Don has paid his civic dues having served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Retail Council and Rotary Club along with being a member of the Planning Commission. He also has been active in church and fraternal organizations.

Don says the biggest change in downtown St. Peter has been the acquiring of parking lots and cooperative attitude of the business people.

He and his wife Marilla (a piano teacher) treasure the fact that second and third generations of customers as far as the Twin Cities return to purchase shoes from Burch's.

St. Peter Cablevision

St. Peter Cablevision, owned by Select Vision, Inc. of New York City, after receiving a franchise from the City of St. Peter, installed its first cable with seven channels at the now councilman, Jerry Pfeifer's home in September of 1973. In July of 1974, a local broadcasting channel was added.

The firm's first location was in Cliff Mollert's D.X. Station at 1305 South Minnesota Avenue. Frank Valentine, general manager from New York City, moved the firm in December of the same year, to the north half of the John Engesser Clothing Company building at 123 South Minnesota Avenue, built in 1889 and now owned by Bob and Jo Witty. Prior to St. Peter Cablevision as tenants, the Overn brothers (Carl and Nels) electrical shop, Pizza Villa and the Swedish Kontur Import Shop were the occupants. The south half of the building housed the Red Owl Store with Leon Bunde as manager, Bill Francis' Western Auto, Theis Plumbing and now Witty's Laundramat-Plumbing Shop. Lloyd Gould Barber Shop has occupied the basement under the south half since 1924, with Dick Cassett, nephew, now the owner, who has been barbering there for over 40 years.

Cablevision, with 33 miles of line at a cost of $10, 000 per mile, passes in front or back of every St. Peter home. The City of St. Peter receives a fee for every pole used by the company. It's no wonder cablevision hasn't expanded to the hamlet of Traverse.

Ron Hanson, lifetime St. Peterite and graduate of Mankato State University, was hired as manager in April of 1974. I recall Frank Valentine calling me from New York City requesting information about Ron. I believe my remarks, "He is a diamond in the rough" proved to be correct.

In 1974, the first major live broadcast took place at the Nicollet County Fair with the tractor pulling contest, motorcycle races and the demolition derby being the events. Live broadcasts originate from Trinity Lutheran Church every Sunday morning, along with the showing the Independence Day Parade, St. Patrick's Day Parade and the League of Women Voters

Candidate meetings from city hall. John Elbert's 'Focus on St. Peter' every Monday night has created much interest. The tape of the Independence Day Parade with the Swedish Band participating has been sent to Vaxjo, Sweden at their request.

Gerald Hanson, who works on special projects, expects to have all dorms at Gustavus Adolphus College wired by the fall of 1981. The Nobel Science Conference is one of the most educational events broadcast yearly from the college.

In the fall of 1978, the St. Peter system was purchased by Communication Systems of Hector, Minnesota under the Rapids Cable T.V. Corporation. The C.S.I. system, parent Company, headed by Curt Sampson, President, operates nearly 30 cable systems in Minnesota and is also involved in manufacturing telephone components in Illinois and Puerto Rico.

Curt had the honor of being named Minnesota Small Business Person of the year in 1978. Arlan Muenzhuber is vice president/general manager of Communications Systems. St. Peter, Lake Crystal, Sherburn and Springfield are the cities mainly serviced from the St. Peter office. Two additional employees care for the day to day operations in Springfield and Sherburn.

Other employees are Jean Strand Germscheid, office manager; Arlene Newland, receptionist/clerk; Terry Schildt, technician/assistant manager.

Ron says, cablevision is coming into its own as 56% of the homes in St. Peter enjoy it with another 40% paying additional fees for movie service, HBO and so forth. 95% of the homes in Sherburn, Springfield and Lake Crystal have cable.

In May of 1979, cablevision added four new channels delivered to the five acre Lake Emily tower site VIA satellite. The channels are relayed through the satellite 22, 300 miles above the equator nearly over Hawaii. Incidentally, Lake Emily received its name as the first girl who drowned in the lake in the covered wagon days was named Emily.

The St. Peter system expanded again in 1980 and now offers over 20 channels of entertainment and information mostly delivered VIA satellite. Also included is a special channel used to link the high school to all grade schools for educational broadcasts.

The St. Peter system is one of the largest in terms of services offered and will be surpassed only by the Minneapolis cable system when it is built.

It is expected that eight cities within a 30 mile radius of St. Peter will be considered cable T.V. in the next few years.

Ron attributes much of the success of cablevision to the support of the local business community. It's no wonder several city councils have visited the St. Peter system to view a first class operation.

"Selling" City Is Chamber's Job

My centennial story is dedicated to the 470 loyal members of the St. Peter Chamber Area of Commerce.

The chamber is an organization comprised of business persons, professional members, educators, farmers, industries and retirees. The purpose of the chamber is to bind its members together to strengthen and promote the free enterprise system and improve the economic and social welfare of the community.

The first known chamber existed 6,000 years ago in Mesopotamia. The St. Peter Land Company, with Willis Gorman, who later became Territorial Governor of Minnesota, as president in 1854, was the first form of a chamber in St. Peter.

The land company was followed by the Board of Trade, St. Peter Commercial Club, Civic and Commerce Association and presently the Chamber of Commerce.

The Board of Trade advertised St. Peter in the Eastern newspapers as a shipping point with a population of 4,000 that included 150 college students and 600 mental patients.

The St. Peter association's motto was "sell St. Peter to its own people." The late William Ritt was its first president, and St. Peter Herald editor, Edward A. Johnson was secretary.

The Civic and Commerce Association became known as the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce when it became affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1961.

In 1970, the chamber received new life when it was reorganized under the leadership of Jerry Lager, Bill Pell, Wally Reineke and Milt Nielsen. They hired a full-time secretary to assist the chamber manager in the operation of the chamber, development corporation, United Way, Retail Council, Tourism, Better Business Bureau, employment service and clearing house, which are all headquartered in the chamber office.

In 1973, after 35 years in the business world and five years as alderman, and member of the planning commission for the city, I was employed as chamber manager, succeeding the late Ray Blegan.

The chamber's involvement in keeping and building a new $10 million security hospital in St. Peter must be listed as a highlight in the chamber's past decade. Oceans of praise must be heaped upon past chamber presidents Jerry Lager, Milt Nielsen, Gregg Woods, Don Nieman, and especially Tom Stienessen for their countless hours of work on the project. The raising of $100,000 in donations for the Tax Savers-Job Opportunities Project by the development corporation was an important event in the chamber history.

The result was the purchase of 25.3 acres appropriately named Community Spirit Industrial Park. The ribbon-cutting ceremonies by former Governor Rudy Perpich at the Industrial Park and three industries during the bi-centennial year was a red letter day in St. Peter history.

The Fourth of July Old Fashioned Independence Day Picnic has been enhanced by a Drum and Bugle Corp from Germany, and a marching band from Sweden through the courtesy of the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce and Gustavus Adolphus College.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration, Traverse Pig Roast, Welcome Home for High School, and Babe Ruth teams, the Farm City Banquets and honoring long time members have been fun times for the chamber members.

Few chambers have been entertained by such celebrities as the late Cedric Adams and Halsey Hall, Randy Merriman, Stuart Lindeman, Maynard Speece, Jim Klobuchar, Don Riley, Nancy Nelson, Bill Carlson, Bob Lurtsema, Charlie Boone, Roger Erickson, Frank Quilici, John Gallos, Jim Hill, Gareth Hiebert, Arne Blomquist, Rep. Carl Johnson, Lt. Gov. -DFL endorsed Lt. Gov. candidate, Lt. Gov. Lou Wangberg - IR endorsed Governor candidate, and Joe Solien, along with a host of others.

Secretaries are the backbone of every organization. Those of yester-year include Edward A. Johnson, Harold F. Johnson (jeweler), Paul Bell and Dorothy Olson.

During my nine years as your chamber manager, I have been blessed with three excellent, efficient, and loyal secretaries, namely Nancy Swan Johnson, the late Nancy Anton, and presently Margo Brown. In fact my friends tell me my choice of secretaries has been my best move since I married Renee 35 years ago.

The news media has been a godsend and most cooperative during my nine years as manager – the St. Peter Herald for publishing 100 monthly stories, Valley News, KRBI, KTOE for the radio programs, and North American Cable TV for my weekly "Know Your Community" program.

The ten people who have been president since I started are Milt Nielsen, Mark Schaus, Don Nieman, Gregg Woods, Tom Stienessen, Ted Olson, Ross Bloomquist, Coco Keim, John Bresnahan and presently Greg Seitzer. To these presidents, the chamber members, board and secretaries, for making it possible for me to be the first St. Peter Area of Chamber Manager to graduate from Chamber Institute. My thanks!

Remember, "it takes two, the Chamber of Commerce and you".

St. Peter's Chiropractors

A chiropractor is a person skilled to correct malfunctioned nerves by the manipulation of body structures. This was first practiced in Biblical times by ancient physicians of Rome and Greece.

St. Peter's first prominent chiropractor was Dr. J.J. Edwards, who in 1918, opened an office in the old First National Bank building (which is now Godfather's Pizza) before moving into the second floor of the Governors Five building. Dr. Edwards practiced in the "Saintly City" for better than three decades before retiring.

Dr. George Haedt

Dr. George Haedt graduated from the Mankato school system before entering the military for four years. Upon completing his military career, Dr. Haedt enrolled in the Northwestern Chiropractic Center from 1957 through 1959.

In 1959, the Haedts cast their lot with St. Peter and purchased the Gus Carlson house (Mrs. George Anderson's parents) at 803 South Minnesota Avenue, where the Haedts opened an office.

George has paid his civic duties. He is past president of the St. Peter United Way, past secretary and director of the Rotary Club, former member of the Trinity Church Board of Directors, member of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, the William R. Witty American Legion Post No. 37, and the V.F.W. Post 1220.

He is a member of professional organizations such as the Chiropractic Association of Kentucky, Missouri, and Minnesota; the American Chiropractic Association, and a member of the Chiropractic Orthopedics.

The Haedts have two children – Jeff and Susan. Jeff is a computer science major at Mankato State University, and Susan is a sophomore at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she excels in academics and athletics.

Dr. Haetdt's receptionists besides his wife, Helga, are: Katherine Kimes and part-time high school student, Barb Arison.

St. Peter Chiropractic Center

Dr. Steven Williquett

Dr. Steven Williquett, owner of the St. Peter Chiropractic Center, was born in St. Paul and graduated from White Bear High School, where he was captain of the school's ski team in 1971.

Steve graduated from Lakewood Community College where he received an Arts & Science degree. In 1974, he graduated from Northwestern Chiropractic College.

While attending two colleges, he worked for seven years for Sperry-Univac as an analytical chemist. Upon graduation, Dr. Williquett practiced for two years in the Minnetonka area before taking over Dr. Bruce Howe's St. Peter Chiropractic Center at 117 South Minnesota Avenue.

Since graduating from Northwestern, Steve has completed post-graduate work in x-ray bone pathology and meridan therapy (better known as acupuncture).

Steve's chiropractic assistants are: Peggy Walter, Bernie Lembert, and Woody Erhorn.

Dr. Williquett is a member of the Minnesota Chiropractic and American Chiropractic Professional Associations and also belongs to the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce.

Broadway Chiropractic Center

Dr. Mark M. Diede

Dr. Mark M. Diede, born in the coyote state of South Dakota, graduated from Park Rapids High School in 1972, where he excelled in athletics. Mark pursued his education at Bemidji State University, Moorehead State University, and Concordia College at Moorhead before enrolling at Northwestern Chiropractic College for four years.

Upon graduation from the chiropractic college in 1980, Mark decided to make his mark in St. Peter, locating in the Palmer building, where for a century the building was known as the Johnson Factory building at 220 West Broadway.

Mark is an active member of the Rotary Club, the Presbyterian Church, the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, the Minnesota Chiropractic Association, and the Parket Chiropractic Research Foundation.

Mark's wife, Donna, was his receptionist until their daughter, Melissa was born. His present receptionist at the Broadway Center is Nancy Kremer.

St. Peter Dentists

Dentistry, the art of science for treating the disease of the teeth, has made great strides since President George Washington supposedly had wooden teeth. My seventh grade teacher said that is why President Washington never smiled. However, two hundred years later, some historian is claiming the wooden teeth to be a falsehood. Does anybody really care?

In 1893, Dr. T.W. Williams, known as one of St. Peter's nineteen most eligible bachelors (including Governor-to-be John A. Johnson) took Minnie Ludcke (Gipp's sister) to be his wife. The Ludckes, a pioneer and prominent family, certainly were an asset to Dr. William's profession. Dr. Williams was an alderman and president of the city council in the late 1800's.

Dr. W.M. Trench, a lifetime bachelor, arrived in St. Peter in 1908 and practiced above Faust Drugs, which is now Swedish Kontur Imports.

Dr. G. Edward Larson, a St. Peter native, returned home in 1912 to be associated with Dr. A.C. Rosenquist, who was ocated upstairs across the hall from Stone & Anthony's Law offices in the old Nicollet County Bank building (now St. Peter Saving's & Loan). In 1915, Dr. G. Edward moved upstairs in the new First National Bank building (Gannon's). He served on the St. Peter School Board for a number of years and was on the State Dental Board of examiners in 1952 when Dr. Joe Dobie took his boards. Signe Kneeland, a St. Peter native, served in Dr. G. Edward's office as dental assistant for a number of years, as did Irma Moll Beaumont and Helen Fredrickson Block.

Dr. Richard E. Larson joined his father in 1946 after 39 months in the military and practiced with him all but two years when he was in Duluth taking care of his Uncle Carl Cassel's practice while he was secretary of the State Dental Association.

Dr. G. Edward Larson was rejoined by Dr. R.E. Larson in 1949 and moved the offices to the second floor of the new Wettergren building (Eck's Living Center). Dr. G. Edward Larson passed away in 1959. Dr. R.E. Larson, like his father, was nterested in community affairs and served as alderman on the city council, was a member of both city and county planning commissions, and is active in many civic and fraternal organizations. He relaxes by singing with the champion Mankato Riverblenders men's chorus.

Dr. Larson's assistants, not to be overlooked were Lois Salley, Shirley Olsen (17 years), Audrey (Mrs. Earl) Hanson, Rosemary (Mrs. Bill) Gustafson, Marion Bruce, Pam Peterson, Gladys Lathrop, Von Marie Pehrson, and now Trish Hallbasch.

Dr. Joseph Dobie, a native from Mapleton (the curling capitol) where his father was a long time school superintendent, arrived in St. Peter in 1961 and purchased Dr. G. Edward Larson's interest. Joe studied post orthodontics at the University of Minnesota and practiced in Denver for one year and Truman for eight years before joining Dr. R.E. Larson.

In 1963, Drs. Larson and Dobie moved into the St. Peter Medical Arts building at 202 West Walnut, now owned by Drs. Larson, Dobie, Dobbs, Thompson and Nelson.

Dr. William E. Dobbs, raised in Mapleton, where his grandfather and father owned the Mapleton Enterprise newspaper, graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 1958. Dr. Dobbs spent 3-1/2 years of his military service n France before relieving Dr. John Tiede in Le Center, while he spent six months on missionary duty in Madagascar in 1962.

Dobbs purchased a practice in Truman and remained there until 1969 when he joined Larson and Dobie in St. Peter. Dr. Dobbs, a member of the Camp Mor Kiltie Bagpipe Band since 1949, has been pipe major for many of the 32 years.

Dobb's chief reason for entering the practice of dentistry was due to a bad experience at the age of ten when he walked out of the dentist office and didn't return for four years. His assistants are Dee Haughdahl and his daughter, Katie Dobbs.

Dr. George Swanbeck, Jr.'s parents owned and operated a confectionery in the building now owned by John Elbert, where John has his electronic's business. Dr. George practiced from 1914 until about 1950, when he met an untimely death.

Dr. Arthur H. Bittner, also a St. Peterite, practiced in St. Paul from 1905 to 1915 before locating in the old Nicollet County Bank building. Dr. Bittner, a mayor of St. Peter, passed away in the early 1930s

Dr. Helge Sandelin, a native of Sweden, received his B.S. degree in Stockholm before immigrating to the University of Minnesota Dental School. Sandelin started his practice in the Burg building, now Sugar 'N Spice, and moved to Bruce Santelman's Governors Five building. He then moved to Dr. E.G. Olmanson' s new St. Peter Clinic building in 1948.

Dr. Stanley J. Kaisersatt, a Montgomery native, opened an office on the second floor of the old Nicollet County Bank building in 1933. Dr. Stan built a new office building west of Dr. Strathern's office in 1958. Upon his retirement in 1973, the building was moved to its present location south of the old city hall – fire station. Larry Luedke presently owns the building and leases the office to accountant Mert Kirby and wife Liz.

Dr. Robert C. Dahleen, St. Peter's oldest practicing dentist, opened a dental office in the Covell building complex in 1940. Dr. Bob Sr. Spent 1942 to 1946 in the Pacific Theatre along with friends Bud Strand, Jim Weisgerber, Harlan Anderson, and the late Archie Ollerman.

Robert Dahleen, Jr. Joined his father's firm in 1970 after spending two years in the military, which included time in Vietnam.

Dr. Pat O'Brien, a great grandson of one of St. Peter's first families, joined the Dahleens in 1972 after serving two years as a hygienist in Vietnam.

The firm of Dahleen, Dahleen and O'Brien purchased the St. Peter Clinic building in 1975. Dr. Dahleen Sr. sold his practice in 1980 to son Bob, and Pat O'Brien and is practicing with the partner staff on a limited basis.

Drs. Doug Maxson, Steve Johnson, Gary Cargill, Mike Babcock and John White apprenticed under the tutelage of Dr. R.C. Dahleen Sr. Dr. White succeeded Dr. Paul Keller at the St. Peter State Hospital, who had replaced Dr. Russell Johnston when he retired after many years of state service.

Dahleen Sr. gave dental hygienists Barb Davis Steele and Jan Bredeson their first jobs after their graduation from the University of Minnesota. Terry Wright is present hygienist, and assistants are Teresa Kienlen, Denise Greenig, Jo Ann Bauer and Tom Ahlstrom. Mary Holmstead is office manager and Delores McDonough is receptionist. Dr. Dahleen Sr.'s oldest patients have been Mrs. George Nutter at the age of 100 and Martin Annexstad Sr., who is now 99.

All of the dentists heretofore mentioned were graduates of the University of Minnesota Dental School. No doubt Dr. Williams remembered when X-rays were first used in 1895, and Dr. Bittner remembers when novocain came into being in 1905, replacing laughing gas (which was nitrous oxide combined with oxygen). Laughing gas was taken by Dr. Horace Wells in 1844 while having teeth extracted painlessly.

While whiskey was often used to numb the gums for extractions, oil of cloves on cotton temporarily relieved toothaches.

The elderly dentists well remember the old drills with 3,500 RPM. The new high speed air drills operate at 400,000 RPM. This is quite a contrast from the old foot-operated drills.

Women have made great strides in the dental field. In 1950 there were two registered women dentists and in 1980 there were 47 women. Presently, of the 589 students in the four year program at the University of Minnesota, 102 are women.

While proper diets, fluoride treatments and health care have cut the amount of cavities, dentists will always be treating and caring for teeth.

Door Engineering & Manufacturing Company

The Door Engineering Company, located on the former Babcock Stone Company property at Kasota is owned by the Otis Olson family.

Otis and his wife, Marjorie, natives of Edgeley, North Dakota, arrived in 1949 in Minneapolis, where he took a job with the Electric Power Door Company. In 1960, the company was sold and the operation left the Mill City.

Otis was approached by Minnesota Mining the following year to learn if he would be interested in manufacturing some electric operators for their hang doors in St. Paul. Thus, the beginning of the Olson enterprise in a 1500 square- foot building in Bloomington. The company expanded their operation by moving to larger quarters before outgrowing the facilities and moving to Watertown, Minnesota in 1971.

In 1979, Otis, while scouring the Minnesota Department of Economic Development periodical, spotted the Babcock complex at Kasota. The stone company facilities were ideal with overhead cranes, office, machine shop, fabrication, poll and storage buildings. Although most of the doors are shipped out by truck, the plant is adjacent to the Chicago-Northwestern tracks where certain orders are shipped out. To seal the deal, the Door Engineering Company, through the city of Kasota, received a $600,000 industrial revenue bond.

Otis, the company president, is joined in the firm by Marjorie, who has been corporate secretary since the company was founded. Two sons, David, vice president, and Stephen joined the business in 1976. Don Peterson, former drafting engineer with the Babcock Company, remains in the same position with Door Engineering, while Harold Wheeler is the project engineer. The company presently employs 20 to 25 people who are involved in welding and metal work, and includes assemblers and machinists.

Their business is designing, manufacturing and installing custom made doors for industrial use. Many types of doors are manufactured. One of these is a bifold door that swings to the side. It is used in grain elevators, parking garages and factories or fork-lift traffic or wherever there is high traffic and the door is required to open and close fast. Some customers include 3M, Cargill, North Star Concrete, Pillsbury, and the IDS Tower in Minneapolis, to name a few.

The blast doors are used by the military and re-located in such areas as Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Loring Air Force Base in Maine for their storage igloos.

The Door Engineering Company also manufactures the sliding door. Sears Tower in Chicago, the tallest building in the world, uses the company's door for their underground truck door. The Tarbela Dam in Pakistan also uses their sliding door for their dust-proof powerhouse door.

The vertical doors are used where other types of doors cannot be used because sideroom limitations or high security requirements. Representative installations include the Federal Reserve Banks in Minneapolis, Boston, Denver and Philadelphia, Northern States Power, and the Ford Motor Company.

Sliding and tip-up hangar doors are also manufactured in Kasota. There are small hangar doors approximately 40 feet wide by 12 feet high that tip up for light airplanes, and large sliding hangar doors for the military that can measure up to 300 feet wide and 27 feet high. Such a door was made for the military at Virginia Beach, VA, with 30-foot sections, each opening by itself. Doors of this design are located coast to coast and in Alaska.

The craneway door is built mostly for bridge cranes. They are used in Pulp and Paper Company or at missile bases such as the Polaris Missile facility in Georgia.

Electric Companies

The days of the old lamplighter became history when the City of St. Peter installed a Thomson-Houston electrical plant in 1892. In 1915-1916, the electrical plant, which cost the city several thousands of dollars, was discarded as being an unprofitable operation.

The same year the city fathers signed a 10-year contract with Consumers Power and Light Company of Key City. The rate in those days was, as "Homer" would say, "penny cheap", with the first thousand at two cents per kilowatt, one cent the next thousand, and .7 cents thereafter.

In 1929, according to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee edition, new lights were installed on the White Way (Minnesota Avenue), upon completion on new Highway 169. The 86 automatically controlled lights, costing $11,309, were installed by the Ritt Electric Company in 61 days and were turned on Thanksgiving evening. This was the night before St. Peter's big victory 6-0 over Mankato High School. The cost of juice per evening for the 86 lights was but $7.36.

Jim Sandeen, with the city light and water department for 35 years, and now superintendent, would have to admit that electric charges have changed somewhat.

William A. (Bill) Ritt, founder and executive secretary of the Minnesota Electrical Association, and Carl M. Overn, both deceased, were known as the patriarchs of electricians. Bob Volk, Dick Miller, and Keith Rasche, all self-employed, apprenticed under Bill Ritt and worked for him and his wife, Annie, at the same time.

Don's Ace Hardware

Stan Hadac, from the New Prague-Lonsdale area, completed his studies at Dunwoody Institute upon the completion of his World War II service. In 1946 Stan started working for the late Bill Francis (Bill's Hardware) as an electrician and repairman. In 1954, Stan, a master electrician, concentrated solely on the electrical business. One of his prize accomplishments was that he wired most of the late Norma MacKenzie's 100 plus homes. He and his co-worker, Rodney Forbrook, formerly of Courtland, have been responsible for most of the wiring of the St. Peter Creamery/Drying Plant Complex.

Stan Hadac is numbered among the hard working past commanders of VFW Post 1220 in St. Peter.

Miller Electric

Dick Miller, St. Peter High School and Mankato Vocational Tech School graduate in industrial electronics and refrigeration, worked in Waterloo, Iowa, before returning to St. Peter to work for Bill Ritt. While working for Ritt's, he received his journeyman and master electrician's license. Dick worked at Ritt's for seven years before joining Continental Can of Mankato. During his employment in the Key City he also operated a small electrical business on the side that eventually led to his decision to go into business full time in St. Peter.

Dick hails from an old pioneer family in the community of St. Peter and is married to Mary Lou Seibert. Being a member of the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department for 13 years, and a member of the building and trade advisory committee for the Interdistrict Cooperative Center occupies most of his community service time.

Rasche Electric

Keith Rasche apprenticed at Ritt Electric Company in 1959 and had the dubious honor of working with his father Ken (Keno) until 1963, shortly before marrying Sharon Severson.

Keith then worked for large electric firms in Faribault and the Twin Cities before returning to St. Peter in 1965 to become a partner with his father in the electrical firm. Upon Ken's retirement in the 1970s, Keith cast his lot with Thomas Electric in Mankato. In 1976 he took a job for one year working on the Alaskan Pipeline out of Fairbanks, Alaska. Shortly after returning home, he and Sharon formed the Rasche Electric Company, Inc.

Some of the Rache's major accounts include A.D.C. Products, Unimin Corporation (Ottawa), Traverse Elevator, the Masonic building, and most recently, McDonald's Restaurant.

Rasche's warehouse is located in the historic E.C. Davis building on Front Street and Park Row.

Volk Electric

Volk Electric had its beginning in Mankato in 1955. Two years later Bob moved to St. Peter, working 13 years at Ritt Electric. In 1970 he stared his own business, working out of his garage before moving into A.H. Hermel's old warehouse. In two years the firm outgrew its quarters and he purchased the Murphy warehouse at 946 North Fourth, where they are presently located.

Bob remembers ten employees working two 8-hour shifts for three weekends to ready Alumacraft Boat Company following their big fire.

Bob and his wife, Carol, list the new A.H. Hermel warehouse in Mankato, Minnegasco (Minnesota Valley Gas Company) building remodeling, Erickson's Family Shopping, and Vo-Tech Institute as their biggest jobs. Since 1970 the Volks have done all the wiring for the Holiday House additions.

The firm presently employs five people. With their new underground trencher and aerial bucket truck, work is a breeze compared to the old pick, shovel and ladder.

February 8, 1982

Governors Five Menswear

Governors Five Menswear, owned and operated by Bruce Santelman and his wife, Rosie, is located at 300 South Minnesota Avenue. The building, without the least equivocation has to be one of the oldest buildings on the avenue.

My first recollection of the store was in the 1920's when Joe Poetz operated a drug store in the building before moving into the quarters once occupied by the defunct Citizens State Bank, now Bjorling's Swedish Kontur Import Shop. Louie Blender and son, Norman, operated a Haberdashery store in the building before obtaining a liquor license. The bar changed hands a few times before Mark Schaus and cousin, Jerry Germschied purchased the building to open Mark & Jerry's Menswear store.

Mark, during his youth, worked for Schaefer Brothers peddling papers on foot every morning at 5:00 a.m. despite the weather. Mark apprenticed in the clothing business under Phil and Albert Dick before enlisting in the Marines. The Dick brothers had taken over the business from their father, Phil Dick, Sr.

When Russ Dick, Albert's son, entered the military, Phil closed out the business.

Mark's health started to decline as a result of the war, and consequently, he and Jerry sold the business and building to Allan Ballman of Cleveland in 1976. Mark, a former Chamber president, passed away soon after. Jerry is now in sales for Lager's, Inc. in Mankato.

Bruce and Rose, St. Peter natives and graduates, purchased the clothing business and building from Al Ballman in 1980. Bruce had previously worked for the City of St. Peter, Burch's Shoes, and Cliff Mollert's South Side Shell Station while attending Mankato State University. After marriage to Rosie Schmit in 1967, they moved to Shakopee to operate an off and later an on sale liquor business. The Santelmans sold both liquor businesses in 1973 and built the Time Out Lounge with Rod Wilke.

In 1975, Bruce sold his share of the business and moved to Hutchinson to enter into the Country Kitchen business with his father and mother, Ken and Marcie Santelman. They returned home in 1979 with daughter Jill and son Benny to purchase the clothing store. The name of their newly purchased store was changed from Mark & Jerry's to Governors Five Menswear in honor of the five governors from St. Peter: Willis A. Gorman, Horace Austin, Henry A. Swift, A.R. McGill and John A. Johnson, who was the only Minnesota native.

Maggie Hillesheim, one of the many Sleepy Eye residents who moved to St. Peter is a graduate of the Pipestone Area Vocational Institute. She is on the floor selling when not busy with her specialty of tailoring.

Bruce is a member of the Chamber Board, recently elected vice chairman of the Chamber Retail Council, ambassador of the Chamber, a member of the Shoreland Country Club, and the First Lutheran Church. He was also active in the Lions, Jaycees and the Chamber in various other towns before coming back to St. Peter.

Bruce says, the Santelmans enjoy their business in St. Peter and are most happy to return to the place from whence they came.

St. Peter Florists And Garden Centers

The first greenhouse in St. Peter was on the brow of a hill on the State Hospital campus. State employees John Lenhert and in later years, Roy Nimps spent a combined total of over 50 years working with hospital employees and residents caring for the greenhouse. In those days, working on the hospital farm and greenhouse was an excellent method of therapy and rehabilitation.

In downtown St. Peter, the Baberick sisters, Emma and Bertha, operated a florist shop where the new Nicollet County Bank graces the community. The Baberick sisters apprenticed in their parents' mercantile store in the Konsbruck Block on South Third. The elderly Babericks had settled in St. Peter in 1856. The sisters grew very few of their own flowers, jobbing flowers mostly from a Mankato firm.

St. Peter Greenhouse

Country Garden

In 1938, Rasmus and Marie Pedersen (now Mrs. Ole P. Johnson), after visiting cities in Iowa and Minnesota, settled in St. Peter to establish the St. Peter Greenhouse at 801 North Minnesota Avenue. Marie credits Mayor Rueben R. Seibert for their decision, as he not only showed them the town, but sold them on St. Peter. The greenhouse property was purchased from Charlie Clark, whose parents were among the first settlers in St. Peter.

"Ras", as known by his friends, was a jack of all trades. He dug the greenhouse foundation by hand, completed the glass structures, installed the plumbing and heating, built benches and assisted the carpenters.

The Pedersens employed their nephews, Wally and James from Valley City, N.D. Wally later was employed by the old Minnesota Valley Gas Company (Minnegasco) and had several years with the St. Peter town baseball team. James who is a minister now, stayed with the Pedersens while he was a student at Gustavus Adolphus College (G.A.C.).

Marie recalls that Dr. Arne Langsjoen and five brothers were dedicated and dependable workers at the greenhouse in their younger days. In 1954, the Pedersens sold the business to Virgil and Jane Jensen. Ras became supervisor of the Gustavus Adolphus College greenhouse conservatory as a hobby until his death in 1967.

The Jensens sold the business in 1970 to Gerald and Diane Lunderberg of Minneapolis. The Lunderbergs, having been in business in the Twin Cities since 1956, learned the trade from the ground up from father and uncle. With the addition of 3,500 square feet, the complex has a total of 15,000 square feet.

The greenhouse and 80 acres of nursery on Dodd Road is manned by Jerry, wife Diane, children Danielle and Mike, Don Mayo (28 years), Phyllis Martin, Tim Mayo, Lynn Wescot, Jon Dummer and several others during peak season.

The Lunderbergs expanded the business in 1977 by purchasing Attorney N.C. Gault's building at 221 South Minnesota Avenue and opening the Country Garden for the sale of flowers, gifts, etc.

The Gault building, one of St. Peter's oldest, once housed the Charles Rost Harness Shop, Brinker's St. Peter Hatchery, Harold Johnson's Jewelry Store, and Gault and Gustafson's Law firm, to name a few. Nancy Lindquist, now employed at Eck's Living Center, was the initial manager of the Country Garden. Vinnie Steinke moved up as manager when Nancy left.

odi Johns (Larry & Rosie Skramstad's daughter) and Elizabeth Edwards assist in the operation. Elizabeth apprenticed under Al Cole and Betty Von Essen at Sunnyside, Ras Peterson and the Mankato Hilltop Nursery, so she is no stranger to the business.

The Lunderbergs are community minded, as they helped organize the YCAP Program with Peg Stolee and Joan Odell his past year.

Sunnyside Florist

In 1948 the late Al Cole, shortly after returning from World War II, left his position as assistant cashier at the First National Bank to devote all of his time to the greenhouse. He and Ann had started at the south end of St. Peter where Highway 169 is located. Mike Bresnahan, Inez Meyer, Elizabeth Edwards, and Geraldine Davis (a former St. Peter teacher who has now taught in Cleveland for over 20 years) were early employees. The greenhouse building was moved to 475 Union Street, west of the Nicollet County fairgrounds, by traveling down main street and not breaking a single pane of glass.

The Coles sold the business in 1961 to Don and Rose Mary Dershem and purchased the Arthurs Department Store in the Masonic building, where Bundes now have their ladies apparel store. The Coles named the store Annette's after Ann.

Rick Leverson (Jack and Joy Leverson's son) purchased Sunnyside in 1971 and sold the business to Betty Von Essen in 1976. Rick moved to Mankato to go into business and is now in San Antonio, Texas.

Betty Von Essen, formerly an L.P.N. at the St. Peter State Hospital recently constructed a 30 by 30 addition, giving them over 2,000 square feet of space. The new addition houses gift items, baby clothes, plants and flower displays.

Betty, along with Carol Shipp and several part-time employees, is especially busy this time of the year making centerpieces, corsages, nosegays and wristlets for proms, graduations and confirmations. Betty says that they have plenty of room for expansion and will need it if business keeps growing.

Traverse des Sioux Garden Center

The Traverse des Sioux Garden Center, appropriately named as it is located near the state park where the treaty was signed, has been in existence since March of 1980. It is located on Highway 169 in the former George and Helen Dranttel farm market building, and is owned and operated by Joy and Lydell Struck.

Joy and Lydell, St. Peter natives, attended the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, where Joy majored in home economics and Lydell in horticulture.

In the early 1970's, Lydell gained experience as the assistant manager of the Green Giant Garden Center in suburban Minneapolis. In 1972 they returned to the area, forming the Silent Oaks Garden Nursery, and purchased the Le Sueur Greenhouse. In 1974 the Strucks opened a branch in the Valley Green Square in the Le Sueur Mall.

Jan and Bob Lutz, Lydell's sister and brother-in-law, were partners the first season before Bob went into the carpentry trade in St. Peter. Jan is employed in the office of Komatz Construction, Inc.

Products besides nursery stock, garden supplies, landscaping aids and gift items are sweet corn, squash, onions, pumpkins, apples, cider and other fresh vegetables and fruit. In November and December the Garden Center is transformed to a Christmas center with trees, lights and decorations of all kinds.

Encouraged by a good response from local patrons and travelers from Highway 169, the Strucks erected a 22 by 72 foot greenhouse and nursery display area. The gift shop and garden center have also been improved.

The Strucks are assisted in the operation of the center by Robin Holmes, full-time, and Julie Telley and Betti Panka as part-time employees. The Strucks hope to serve the gardening, landscaping and produce needs of the area for many years down the road.

The Compart's Hog Operation

The Compart's hog operation located seven miles north of Nicollet and eleven miles west of St. Peter, just off the old historic Fort Road, had a 4-H Club beginning. Dick and his wife, Bonnie, who hails from Anoka, met at a 4-H Club Week that led to their marriage and eventually to their huge hog operation.

Dick, upon returning from the U.S. Army, was a farming partner with his father, Ottmar, until he and Bonnie took over the family farm in 1968.

The Comparts raise three breeds of hogs: Durocs, the breed that Dick had as a 4-H Club member; Hampshires, the breed that Bonnie exhibited as a 4-H'er, and the York line that sons Marc, Jim and Dean added to the family operation four years ago. Dean has an interest in Chester Whites, as he is now the representative for the Chester White Swine Record Association in Rochester, Indiana.

In 1967, Dick and Bonnie, after serious deliberation, quit their Holstein-Jersey dairy operation to devote more time to the hog enterprise. The dairy barn was converted into a farrowing barn as was the dairy barn at son Marc's.

The 142' x 45' breeding and gestation barn at Jim's, houses 210 sows and 10 boars. The gestation crates in the building are manufactured by the R.C. Manufacturing Company, owned and operated by Richard Compart and Roger Currier. The company also designs and manufactures hydraulic livestock trailers, partition gates and the Compart farrowing pens that are used by many hog operators. A 20' x 26' office joins the building, where not only breeding records are kept, but a Jemex alarm system is housed. The alarm system is not only hooked up to the Compart families phones, but neighbors, Sheriff of Nicollet County and Dr. Robert Martens, who has been the Compart veterinarian for over a quarter of a century.

The Compart nursery holds 600 piglets. The R.C. crates are double-decked with piglets three weeks old in the upper berth. When they are six weeks old, they are moved to the lower berth of the crate.

The 186' x 30' growing and finishing barn is thermostatically controlled and was in the process of being built three years ago when Chamber members visited the Compart complex during the farm tour in 1976.

Sanitation is so important as in any animal operation. Dick designed and built a 100 gallon disinfectant tank mounted on a two wheel trailer to sanitize the barns before and after a new litter of hogs is moved in.

Ed Hubley, manager of the New Ulm Test Station, weighs boars on test and again scanning and weighing off test at 230 lbs. The test can calculate how many days it will take for the boar to reach 230 lbs.

The Compart's with their scanning device, can detect if a sow is pregnant. If a red light goes on and a tinkling sound is heard, the sow is pregnant. When a green light goes on, it means the sow must be serviced again.

The Compart's sales auction is worth one's time to observe. A free supper at 5:30 pm. is served by the neighbor ladies in a 44' x 36' building at Marc's. This building consists of an office, a kitchen and a dining room that will hold 150 people.

Bonafide F.F.A. and 4-H members can receive a 10% discount on one animal. Gilts, $225 and up, and boars $400 and up. Customers since January 1, 1978, are entitled to a 10% discount on one animal on all Duroc, York, and Hampshire.

Marlene Johnson, Lois Currier, Diana Compart and Lyle Nelsen clerk the sales. Marlene Johnson's duty is to check records for those eligible for discounts.

The Dick Comparts are assisted in the operation by Dean, Heidi, Chris, Marc and his wife Peggy, Jim and his wife Diana, and Tony and Karen Liebl (the Russ Thompson's daughter and son-in-law), who have been with the Comparts for ten years. Jim Cords is employed as their herdsman.

The Comparts are proud that Don Michaels of Farmerville, Ohio had the champion and second place boars at the national conference that sold for $14,000 and $10,000 respectively. These boars were sired by the Compart's boar, "Louis". Louis was sold to Michaels at the 1980 Louisville Show and was first in his class.

Many of the Duroc and York boars sold at the Compart's 21st sale were sired by son of Cherokee Joe (RCO Joe 51-1, neaning Richard Compart 1980, sire's name and ear mark).

Since the sales began, Compart boars have been sold to buyers from 25 states. At a sale in 1974, boars were sold to uyers from eleven states.

In 1971, the Comparts were named to the Shell Oil Company Porl All America list. Several honors have been bestowed ıpon the Comparts since the operation began. 1974 was a banner year with champion board at the Minnesota and Iowa State Fairs and the National Barrow Champion at Austin, Minnesota.

Dick is a past president of the Minnesota Pork Producers and was a member of the Pork Producers Board for six years. Ie is also director of the National Duroc Association.

The Comparts are believers in advertising. In addition to their catalogues, they advertise by radio, Duroc News Journal, he back page of the Minnesota Pork Producers periodical Pork News.

Records are ever so important and that duty falls on the shoulders of Bonnie, who keeps an excellent set of records as here is no room for second guessing.

The success of the Compart operation lies in the ability of the family to select hogs for breeding and keeping abreast vith new technology.

February 3, 1981

Kind Veterinary Clinic

The Kind Veterinary Clinic operation located at 1123 South Minnesota Avenue, is a far cry from the remedies of yesterday's horse doctor that used linseed oil liniment and salt to cure or kill animals.

Today's sophisticated veterinary school curriculum, along with practice of veterinary medicine, has changed from the past in that the emphasis is on disease prevention as well as treatment and remedies for animals.

Those of us who were here 55 years ago remember the office that Dr. John Lambert (Buzz and George's uncle) had south of Dr. Strathern's office, where the Governors Five billboard now stands. Miles Lunak had his shoe repair shop in the uilding when he first came to town in 1930.

Buzz Lambert vividly recalls driving Dr. Lambert on his country calls in the 1920s. A friend once asked Dr. Lambert on he street what could be the matter with his sick dog. Dr. Lambert replied, "About $2 worth", and kept on walking. Dr. Roy Arthur Dean (Mr. Nicollet County Fair) practiced in St. Peter for a half century before passing away. The dean office was located in the now Tom Janni building at 113 South Minnesota Avenue, where Tom and his wife, Ruth, operate the Montgomery Ward store.

Dr. M.E. Merkley, now federal inspector at a turkey plant in Faribault, practiced in the Merkley building, where son Tom has his North American Taxidermy business. Dr. Fred York was a partner of the Merkleys for a short time before leaving for employment with the federal government as an inspector.

Dr. James O. Hanson married a local girl, Carol Meyer, and opened an office in his home at 621 South Minnesota Avenue, once known as the Con Vogt house.

Dr. Gene Kind is a 1955 graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine. While waiting for a call from the military during the Korean War, he worked for the State of Minnesota. When calling on Dr. Hanson, they became acquainted, and he started working for Jim in 1955. After two years of apprenticing, Gene became a partner. In 1967 Jim accepted a position with the University of Minnesota, working in Continuing Veterinary Education.

In 1969 Gene purchased Jim's interest and in 1975 purchased and remodeled the building they now occupy. The building was built 55 years ago as a service station by Christianson and operated by his son-in-law "Mutsie" Veith. In later years, Wally Covell owned and operated the building with John Allen, the last service operator.

Jim's wife, Carol, was the office manager of the clinic until the Hansons moved to their new home on South Washington Avenue. Bill and Inez Meyer (Carol's folks) moved into the clinic living quarters in 1960 and continued there until 1975. Carol worked until 1968. Bill assisted in the animal surgery and was a past master when it came to caring for dogs.

Lois Bohlen (Mrs. Roger) was office manager for the clinic from 1968 to 1975. Deanna Leivestad was employed by Dr. Kind from 1978 to 1979. Dr. John Arbaugh worked from 1967 until 1969 after coming from Australia. Dr. Mick Striegel worked for the clinic from 1979 to the spring of 1980.

Dr. Kendrick Douglas, who is presently working at the clinic, arrived from Fairmont in 1969, and Dr. Bill Gay, a graduate of Iowa State University, came to St. Peter this past year to assist in the practice. Three veterinary technicians are employed by the Kind Clinic: Margaret Huettl, Wendy Person, a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Waseca; and Sharon Iverson, a graduate of Medical Institute, Minneapolis. They do lab work in addition to other duties in the clinic. The technicians are to the vets what nurses are to medical doctors.

The clinic vets use three special mobile units mounted on pickup trucks to make their calls, which cover over 55, 000 miles yearly in a three-county area. The trucks are equipped with two-way radios that are linked with the clinic office and homes. The home calls are covered by the veterinarians wives, mostly after office hours.

Gene noted that more progress has been made in veterinary medicine in the past ten years than in the previous ninety years. Artificial insemination, with a bull playing second fiddle as a backup, has been quite a transition. Nicollet County cows are free of Bang's Disease, and hog cholera is non-existent due to discontinuing vaccinating and eliminating infected herds. Today's practice consists of 40 percent dairy, 30 percent pets, 15 percent hogs, and the rest sheep, horses, etc. It's hard to believe that the St. Peter State Hospital with their large dairy herd and huge hog operation was one of Dr. Kind's biggest clients.

Several St. Peterites have gone into the practice of veterinary medicine. Dr. William Herberg is an employee of the federal government with USDA as an inspector in several nearby counties. Dr. Edward "Chipper" Davis is practicing in Roseburg, Oregon. Dr. Charles Rucks, one-time employee of the Kind Clinic, is located at Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Dr. Ken Quist, a schoolmate of Dr. Kind at the university, is in Atlanta, Georgia, and is employed by the Public Health Service. Joe Vogel's son, Lyle, is a veterinarian in the military. Bruce Beatty, Jim Beatty's son, is in his first year at the Veterinary School, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Herberg's son, Paul, is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Herberg's son, Bill, is a freshman at the University.

Gene Kind spends several days yearly at the Nicollet County Fair, checking 4-H animals and health certificates.

Veterinary medicine is indeed a specialized field, and with the Kind Clinic of St. Peter, Marten's Clinic of Nicollet, and five area veterinarians, one would have to say the area is well covered. Gene says: "Be KIND to animals."

Swedish Kontur Imports

The Swedish Kontur is the result of a Swedish Foreign Exchange student, Anders Bjorling, meeting a Gustavus Adolphus College student named Janet from Waterloo, Iowa, who worked in the college bookstore.

Anders, instead of purchasing all of his books on one trip to the bookstore, liked what he saw in Janet, thus giving him a legitimate excuse for making single purchases.

Upon graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College (G.A.C.) in 1958, they returned to Ander's native Sweden where he took a position with an export shipping company in Stockholm, while Jan was employed the last two years in Sweden by the American Express Company.

In 1962, Ross Bloomquist, then business manager at G.A.C., informed Anders of an opening in the college business office, whereupon they returned to surroundings remindful of Ander's homeland.

The Bjorlings purchased the late Hilton E. Miller house at the end of Nassau Street. The house, with a walk-in lower level, was ideal for displaying their Swedish imports. In reminiscing, Jan recalls the late Martha Fredrickson as their first customer, and Linda Elvee as their first employee.

The ever expanding business outgrew the location and with the ever increasing traffic in a residential area, the Bjorlings found new quarters in the historic John Engesser building at 123 South Minnesota Avenue, owned by Roger Theis. Presently, Bob Witty owns the property and leases the quarters to North American Cable Systems.

Mary Ann Cope helped Janet manage the store and along with Linda Elvee and some G.A.C. students, they ably handled the mushrooming business.

Jan, while pregnant, could be seen standing on a step ladder painting the front exterior of the building. She said it would be interesting to know how many patrons of The Nicollet House bar had wagers as to when she would deliver.

In 1973, when Bob & Lila Faust retired from the drug store, the Bjorlings purchased the beautiful brick building at 314 South Minnesota Avenue. Lila became a clerk and still helps in managing the store.
The present building was built in 1911 by the Citizens State Bank and was used for such until it went defunct in 1926. In 1927, the Alfred Lambertons took over the building and rented the store to druggists, J. A. Poetz an Rudy Faust, until it was purchased by Bob & Lila. Incidentally, Alfred was the grandson of Captain William B. Dodd, St. Peter's founder.

The Bjorlings, firm believers in Scandinavian wares, would return every other year to Sweden to visit factories where Orrefors (Swedish glass) was blown, jewelry, stainless steel and numerous other items were manufactured.

On a trip to Sweden, the Bjorlings were to sail on the Kungsholm ship, as were Dr. Arne and Carol Langsjoen. Can you imagine the surprise when the two couples ran into each other in Times Square in New York City?

The first year in business, the firm sold twelve pairs of clogs, designed by two Swedish orthopedic doctors, with comfort and posture in mind. Several years later, on a Saturday special, the clerks sold 56 pairs of clogs. Swedish Kontur has the reputation of importing strictly from the Scandinavian countries. In addition to glass from Sweden, they import teakware from Denmark, dinnerware from Norway and Finland, and blankets from Iceland. These are just a few items among the store's thousands of imported wares.

The Bjorlings have never capitalized on Ander's father's name. Only recently (on demand) has the store stocked Swedish records, including Ander's father, Jussi. Jussi was a well-known Swedish opera singer who sang for several years with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Anders, with his brother Lars, and sister Ann-Charlotte, would arrive in New York yearly to spend Christmas with father Jussi and mother Anna-Lisa.

The Swedish Kontur, along with Gustavus Adolphus College, was part of a Swedish television program headed by Lasse Holmquist, the Phil Donahue of Sweden. Numerous Swedish students have enrolled at Gustavus as a result.

For Swedish Kontur, the Christmas season, November through December, followed by Parent's Day and Homecoming, are the busiest times.

Janet and Lila Faust are assisted during the rush by Bjorlings three daughters: Susan, a junior at G.A.C.; Jennifer, a sophomore at St. Peter High School, and Lisa, a seventh grader. Anders is the comptroller at Gustavus and is responsible for the record keeping.

No doubt, the Bjorlings surprised themselves when an interesting hobby resulted in one of St. Peter's leading businesses.

Nelson Printing Company

The Nelson Printing Company, located at 838 North Minnesota Avenue, is owned and operated by Irishmen Bernie McGuire and Robert (Cobby) Thomas.

The printing company dates back to 1938 when Iner Nelson of Hutchinson opened a printing shop in the once cigar room of John Thomas' (Cobby's great grandparents) building. The building during Nelson's time, was owned by E.E. Miller, where he operated an insurance agency. The First National Bank purchased the Miller property along with the old Hughes Garage when they built a new bank in 1965.

In 1945, Hans Nyman's father, Emanuel, purchased the Nelson interest and moved the operation to the rear of the building that is now Governors Five.

Paul Eastwood, Sr. of the Le Sueur News Herald, took over the business for two years before selling to another Nelson, L.O. of Red Wing (no relation to Iner).

Bernie McGuire and wife, Mickey, purchased the print shop in 1966. Bernie apprenticed in the printing business as a flunky and clean-up boy while attending Mankato Loyola in the Key City.

After a two-year stint in the military, Bernie used his G.I. Bill for on-the-job training, working under Harvey Rivard. Harvey owned the "Direct Mail Advertising Service", which is now known as D.M. Printing of Mankato.

Thus, with 11 years of experience under Harvey and son, Bill Rivard, Bernie was well qualified in the printing field.

The business was mostly a one-person operation with occasional help from Mickey until Dave was born in 1970. Bernie and Mickey, after finding that they needed more space, moved the operation to the newly purchased Annexstad building, owned by Charles Warning at 219 Park Row. The building for many years, was occupied by Langguths and McCabe bakeries. Presently Dueber's Fabrics occupies the quarters.

According to information available, Robert (Cobby) Thomas is the oldest active printer in the area. Cobby started as a printer's devil in 1919 under the tutelage of the Weisgerber Brothers, Al and Ralph, and Jim Markham, when they owned the St. Peter Free Press. Upon graduation from high school in 1923, Cobby became a linotype operator at The St. Peter Herald.

In 1955, Cobby, Birger Johnson (58 years with the herald), Sander Olson and Jim Weisgerber purchased shares in the Herald Company. Later, in 1969, Cobby and Birger sold their shares to the late editor, Sander Olson and publisher, James Weisgerber.

In 1972, Cobby retired from the St. Peter Herald after a half century of service and joined Bernie in the Nelson Printing Corporation. Bernie had purchased the Ray Olson, Sr. Fairway building in 1971 for a much needed expansion.

Although the bread and butter of the operation is commercial and job printing, they also specialize in office supplies, wedding and other social invitations.

The firm not only serves the surrounding cities, but the Twin Cities area also. Nelson Printing sells supplemental reading materials throughout Minnesota and other states.

Bernie and Cobby's staff consists of Eileen Holz, Bob Rodriguez, Mona King, Mimi O'Brien, Steve Koble, Lindi Odell and other part-time help when needed.

It's ironic that Nelson Printing started in Cobby's great grandfather's building that was once a hotel, saloon, cigar factor, grocery and dry good business.

With the Nelson Printing Company, St. Peter Graphics, and the St. Peter Herald, the printing needs of the area are well covered.

Nutter's Clothing

The late James Nutter's grandparents settled in St. Peter in the 1850's about the same time that the Dodds, Gaults, and Pells made their appearance. Jim Nutter's grandfather and father owned and operated a blacksmith shop where the Anthony Law Office is now located.

In 1922, Jim quit his low paying position as a teller at the First National Bank to open a clothing business in the Danby building, now owned by Bud Braun where Terri Schmit has her Bridal Manor.

Bill and Herb Haesecke had just closed out their men's clothing business, so the time was ripe with the Dick brothers Phil and Albert, who was Marge Keller's father) being the only other men's clothing store in town.

Jim, having no previous knowledge in the clothing business, spent many sleeples nights contemplating how he was going to pay off the $5,000 loan. However, with six months credit from the clothing houses, he weathered the storm.

In 1936, Jim could have purchased the Danby building for the sum of $7,000, but he instead moved into the masonic building complex where Pete Schouviller operated a grocery store where Bunde's is and a dry goods store in the Nutter portion. There was an archway between the two stores that was bricked up when Nutters moved in. Adolphson Shoe Store was in the portion of the lodge building now occupied by Bonnie's.

Harry Kramer, present owner, found a financial statement in the archives of the store dating back to 1937. The statement discloses yearly expenses totaling $8,308.49 which included salaries for one full-time and one part-time employee, utilities, nterest, donations, etc.

When Jim opened his store, if shirt sleeves were too long, one would buy a pair of arm bands. Suspenders were in style as very few people knew about belts. Suits were piled on tables rather than hung on hangers.

My former neighbor, the late A.W. "Acky" Hallander, was Jim's super salesman before entering into the insurance business. In the early days, traveling salesmen would go from town to town by train with suitcases filled with samples. One salesman, having shown his wares to Nutters and the Dick brothers would purchase mules and horses and ship them by rail o St. Louis where he would sell them to the farmers.

During World War II, clothing was hard to come by. Even though Jim would purchase from several houses, he could always rely on his close friend, the late Floyd B. Johnson, president of the Johnson Company in St. Peter.

With a war on, there were many government regulations and controls besides gas and butter rationing. Perhaps the most common was known as O.P.A. (Office of Price Administration). This agency would check the percentage of mark-ups by the merchants. They once found a sweater that Jim had marked $1.00 over the ceiling price. After several trips to the Capitol and several letters to the Governor's office, he requested that the agency just issue the fine so he could pay it.

The Government would not abide by his wishes, but did not print his name in the Twin City's paper for a violation of $1.00 and the matter was dropped. I wonder how much time and money it cost the taxpayer on this case? Uncle Sam's red ape hasn't changed much has it?

In 1948, Harry Kramer, a Cleveland native, returned from the military to replace the late Mark Schaus who opened a clothing store in Le Center.

In 1949, the store was completely remodeled. In the mid 1950's, on a Monday morning, Jim received a call from the police informing him that water was running out the front door. A toilet stool in the lodge's restroom had broken over the weekend, flooding everything.

When Fire Chief Roy Warning punctured the ceiling to relieve the pressure, the water gushed out like coming out of a downspout during a rain storm. Ann Ritt, Ann Schaefer and Clara Nutter spent most of the day hanging clothes out to dry on a makeshift clothing line behind the store.

Several part-time Gustavus students were employed at Nutters over the years to help in defraying the cost of their education. Former employees known to St. Peterites were Bill Haesecke, Jerry Maloney, Ray Narum, Harris Tofte, Myron Gustafson, Lee Huslander, the late Margaret Monahan and Greg Mead, to name a few.

Harry Kramer entered into a corporation agreement with Jim and his wife Clara in 1956. Nine years later, Harry and wife, Delores, purchased the remaining corporation stock with Jim working part-time after his retirement.

Scott Dobie, Ann Mervin and Barb Moeller assist Harry in the store operations today. Harry, a St. Peter Booster has served as a past president of the Chamber Retail Council, past president of Shoreland Country Club and served as chairman of the new Clubhouse Building Committee. He is a former director of the Chamber Board where he was the recipient of the first president's award. Harry is presently a member of the Chamber Ambassadors, the William R. Witty American Legion Post #37, the V.F.W. Club, Rotary Club and the Presbyterian Church.

Harry describes Jim Nutter not only as a true friend, but as a gentleman who remained anonymous in helping the less fortunate.

St. Peter Optometrists

Joe Sheehan - Part of St. Peter's History

Dr. Joe Sheehan, a St. Paul native, was a St. Paul Harding High School graduate prior to enlisting in the service in 1942.

During his high school days, Joe worked as a sampler and handyman for Vander Bies Ice Cream Company of St. Paul, where his dad was plant superintendent. Many a times my mother would stop at Walter Lampros' St. Peter Sweetshop (later Bravo's and Jack Widi's) to treat us with Vander Bies ice cream cones.

Joe enlisted in the 15th Army Air Force in January of 1942 and spent two years of duty in England, Africa, and Italy. In May of 1942, while in the service, Joe married high school sweetheart, Dorothy Souter.

He continued his education at Northern Illinois College where he received his degree in optometry in 1948. Joe returned to the Twin Cities where he apprenticed under the late Dr. George Moss formerly of St. Peter, and a brother of the popular late Walter "Bill" Moss (Isabelle's husband). Dr. Moss found tough sledding in St. Peter, but became a renowned optometrist in Minneapolis. Joe credits Dr. Moss for truly preparing him for the profession.

Joe and Dorothy thoroughly scouted St. Peter before Joe opened a practice here in December of 1948. Heretofore, Joe Poetz, a druggist, and the M.D.s, did the eye examinations and fittings.

Joe's first office was above Foss' Red and White store (now the St. Peter Family Dental Center, Dr. Conover & Engels) with the rent being $10.00 per month. The following year, I convinced Joe to move to the second floor of the new Wettergen building (now owned by Eck's Living Center), where Dr. Larsons, Dr. Dobie, Dr. Minar, K.T.O.E. and the U.S. Soil Conversation Department were located.

Joe, besides helping Dorothy raise Penny, Peggy, Patti, John, and Pam, found time to become involved in civic and fraternal affairs. He was elected president of the Civic and Commerce Association (Chamber) in his second year of practice. The highlight of his term was the booking of Cedric Adams for Farmer's Night and Phil Spitalane and his all-girl orchestra featuring Evelyn and her magic strings for the annual meeting. Joe served as president of the Rotary Club, the St. Peter P.T.A., the Southern Optometric Society, and the Chamber Ambassadors. He was scoutmaster at Trinity Lutheran Church. He served on both the St. Peter and Nicollet County Planning and Zoning Commissions, belongs to the American Legion, V.F.W. Masonic Bodies, Nicollet County Farm Bureau, and the volunteer council of the St. Peter State and Security Hospital, where his wife, Dorothy, is the volunteer coordinator.

Joe moved his office into the McKenzie & Gustafson building at 212 West Grace Street (next to the Chamber of Commerce) in 1963. His receptionists over the years are no strangers. Jane Thomas (Mrs. Martin Klein) was the first, followed by my District 3 school teacher at Traverse, Flora Ritt Baker; Eileen Babcock (Mrs. Dick), Pat Rasmussen Fischer, and now Lynette Flowers (Mrs. Elwood) as present receptionist.

Dr. Michael V. Dieter

Dr. Michael V. Dieter, St. Peter's junior optometrist, was born over three decades ago on the northern boarder of our own North Star State at Roseau.

Mike was a graduate of Chisholm High School in 1969, where he was a member of the school's hockey team. Hockey in Chisholm is secondary to basketball with several of the school's cage teams participating in the state tournament.

Mike's next move was to the Hibbing Community College, where he received an Associate of Arts and Science degree. At school, he switched to wrestling and he wrestled on the school's varsity team. He went west to further his education at Pacific University at Forest Grove, Oregon, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and Doctor of Optometry degree in 1971 and 1975, respectively.

From 1975 to 1978, Mike saw active duty in the U.S. Air Force with a rank of captain, using his optometry background extensively. Upon separation from the service, Mike moved to St. Peter and in 1978 opened a practice in the Minnesota Valley Gas Company (Minnegasco) building. The gas company building was built by Dr. M.E. Lenander over 40 years ago and it housed Dr. Lenander's and Dr. Sjostrom's medical offices, along with being the headquarters for the Minnesota Valley Gas Company. The gas company offices overflowed to the second floor of the St. Peter Herald, Warning's, and the south portion of the Wettergren building.

Mike's first receptionists were Muriel Roach, Lois Hillesheim, and Phyllis Johnson part-time, presently fill that capacity. Mike and his wife, Mary, his high school sweeheart, are the parents of five children: Amy, Katie, Ben, Hannah, and Margaret. Margaret was the first baby born at the St. Peter Community Hospital in 1982.

On Sundays, Mike can be found teaching 4-5 year olds at Bethany Alliance Church. One of his greatest achievements is being the vice president of the Minnesota Valley Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Mike spends his spare time fishing, shooting photographs of his family, and fixing up his recently acquired home on North Third Street. St. Peterites have greatly benefited from Dr. Sheehan and Dr. Dieter's interest in the St. Peter Lions Club eye projects, giving freely of their time and service.

June 14, 1982

Pehrson's Prairie Star Farm

June, being dairy month, I motored to the Dennis and Linda Pehrson dairy farm in Lake Prairie Township to observe first hand their modern dairy operations.

The Pehrson children, Tammy, Paul, Jill and Jason are the fifth generation raised on the 112 year-old farm that received the Century Farm Award.

On the journey to the farm located ten miles west, I remembered Linda as a youngster in pigtails dressed in blue jeans and sneakers, hiking out to Wally Covell's Shady Lane Stables. Linda, a lover of horses, worked there for eight years. Wally provided Linda with a Buckskin riding horse that accompanied her to the farm.

Dennis, a former marine, worked as a salesman at Clements Auto in Mankato, and was Cargill's youngest salesperson prior to purchasing the family's 160 acre farm from his dad, Alemore, in 1970.

The Pehrsons started with 34 Holstein cows and now they rent an additional 80 acres to provide enough feed for their 90-cow herd.

In 1979, the Pehrsons extended their operation by building a new modern 220 x 36 foot dairy barn and two new Harvestore silos – 20' x 80', and 20' x 60'. These new silos, along with the existing 20' x 60', store the haylage, oatlage, silage and high moisture corn.

A new Patz barn cleaner conveys the manure to a 530,000 gallon harvestore slurry storage tank. The Pehrsons, with the use of a honey wagon, inject the liquid manure into the fields at the tune of 600 gallons per acre. This figure is equivalent to 120 pounds of phosphorus and potash. The Norseland Tri Ag Services runs soil tests to determine the right quantities of manure and supplements.

An 800 gallon Mueller bulk tank provides storage for the milk picked up daily by Ralph Lindemeier, a private hauler who transports the milk to Bongards.

The cows are milked by a Conde milker with a surge mini claw, a brainstorm of Denny's. The calves are nurtured for 6-8 weeks in 20 fiberglass hutches before they are on their own. The calves are Linda's pet project, and rest assured, they receive loving care and comfort.

The Pehrsons are members of the Dairy Herd Improvements Association. This past year the herd produced 1-1/2 million pounds of milk that averaged 540 lbs. of butterfat at 3.7 test and 15,500 lbs. per cow.

The Midwest Breeders, Herb Monke is the technician, supply the semen for artificial insemination and mating appraisal service.

Electricity is ever so important on the farm and is taken for granted until the juice goes off. In the winter of 1975, during the storm of the century, the Pehrsons herd went without milking for three days before Jim Miller and Pat Bartels brought out a portable generator. Snowmobile and sled transported the generator from Highway 22 to the Pehrson farm.

The Pehrsons and their neighbors, the Jim Loscheider family, stayed with the Gary Hayers for three days during the 1975 storm. The Hayers had electricity since they were on the high line. Denny said that they consider themselves lucky because some farmers were without electricity for 7-8 days during the storm.

Linda was expecting Jill at the time and received a ride she will never forget as she rode into St. Peter via a snowmobile to stay with her mother until delivery.

Denny, a graduate of St Peter High School, where he participated in F.F.A., was named the 1978 Jaycee's Outstanding Young Farmer. He has also just completed his second 3-year term on the District 508 School Board and was chairman of the Community Education Council. The Pehrsons are one of the 60 farm families that belong to the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce.

Denny and Linda, who have built their herd to 90 cows, said, as other dairy farmers do, that what they have they owe to udders.

Production Credit Association Of St. Peter

Production Credit Association (PCA), St. Peter is located at 1608 South Minnesota Ave., between the Joe Peterson's A & W Drive-In and Rick Weber's Robo Car Wash.

In 1959, Harold and Laurie Martin of Martin Real Estate purchased the Gardner property (originally Stone property) when the City of St. Peter decided not to renew the option on the 20-acre plot.

It seems as yesterday that the Harold Martins decided to offer a $50 bond to the best name for the Gardner property. The three judges, Norman Gault, Professsor George W. Anderson, both deceased, and myself, selected Mrs. Keith Kreykes' name of "Gardners Court" from a list of several hundred as the winner. Stone's Park in the Gardners Court is where Ron, Bob Bresnahan, and Ron Hill started their baseball careers.

The Federal Land Bank, with Wally Johnson as manager, bought the land and erected a building on the present lot.

In September 1961, PCA branches of Faribault and Mankato opened a joint office in the Federal Land Bank Building of St. Peter at $100 monthly rent including heat and lights. In January of 1964, due to inflation, the rent was increased to $115 er month. The office's first field representative was manager Tom Laughlin, who served both the PCA of Faribault and lankato. Marian Swenson was the first clerk typist employed by the St. Peter branch.

The joint arrangement sharing personnel and office space at the St. Peter branch was served with PCA Faribault in 1965, CA of Mankato continued to operate the office on a full time basis serving Nicollet County.

On November 1, 1965, Carl Youngblom, born and raised not too far from Bernadotte International Airport and graduate f the University of Minnesota, became manager of the St. Peter branch. Office space was shared with the Federal Lank ank office until December 1974 when the latter moved their office to Mankato and PCA purchased the building.

In 1976, an extensive 2,400 square foot remodeling project took place resembling the central office at Mankato. Similar esigned offices have been built in New Ulm, Waseca and another facility to be constructed in Gaylord in the near future. St. eter plans to put in a computer terminal and make some minor remodeling changes in 1981.

In the early 1930s, short term credit was at a minimum and cash was most needed. In 1933, the Congress passed the arm Credit Act, allowing farmers to establish, through Production Credit, their own short-term credit organizations, tailored or their specific credit needs.

When Carl Youngblom became manager, the loan volume outstanding was $485,000. In December 1970, the loan olume out of the St. Peter branch was $1,447,520 with 88 borrowers. Today there are 164 borrowers with a total loan of 12,469,190.

The central office at Mankato that includes all branches, has 1,299 borrowers and a loan volume outstanding of 108,258,895. This is a substantial increase from the 1970 figure of $19,620,434 and 923 borrowers.

In addition to Manager Youngblom, the loan officer for PCA in St. Peter is Don Lindeman, who was raised on a farm ear LeSueur and graduated from Mankato State University. Office assistants are Rosemary White and Mary Jean May. The oard chair in Mankato is Amos L. Hayes of Lafayette, who serves Nicollet County, and Oliver Ambroson is the president of he parent organization.

Who said "farming isn't a big business"? Production Credit, along with the other St. Peter financial institutions in the area, ave truly served the farmers' needs.

eitzers' Holstein Farms

yle Seitzer's Seitview Farm

William Joseph Seitzer, an immigrant from Germany in 1895, purchased the Louis Emmel farm in Oshawa township. The 60 acre farm, located northwest of Art Schuck's North Star General Store, was land originally owned by the St. Peter Land ompany.

William Seitzer, a pioneer in the development of registered Holsteins, purchased seven registered Holsteins from a reeder in the Northfield area.

Bill didn't live long enough to see his herd develop as he met the black camel after being gored by a bull purchased rom John Irwin in 1911.

His wife, Mary, and sons Joe (the eldest at 16), Bill and Ed kept the operation going until 1918 when the herd was ivided among the three sons. They ran the land on a rent purchase agreement until 1962 when their mother died at the age f 98.

The Lyle Seitzers' Seitview Farm is owned and operated by Lyle and his wife, Bernita (Michels), and son Bill and wife iane (O'Hare). Lyle's parents, Joe and Vera (Turritin), sold the farm to Lyle and Bernita in 1962. Of their six boys and one girl, Bill stayed on the farm and went into partnership with Lyle and Bernita in the Seitview Farm operation. In 1979 their 60-cow registered herd produced 16,000 lbs. of milk and 605 lbs. of butterfat average per cow. The milk is sold to Bongards Creamery, Inc.

The Seitview Farm sold a bull (Seitview Comet Roburke Ann) to the Minnesota Valley Breeders Association at New Prague that proved to be a proven bull. Lyle and son Bill do their own artificial insemination with products from the American Breeders Service with Bill as technician.

Father Joe passed away in 1972. Lyle and Bernita built a new home on the farm in 1977. Son Bill and wife Diane and children Joseph and Michael are the fourth and fifth generations on the Seitview farm.

The Seitview Farm has expanded to 280 acres with the purchase of 120 acres from the Henry Kretschmers (Bob's folks) in 1939 and 40 acres purchased from the Ray Millers in 1971. The Seitzers also rent 220 acres from the Jim Millers.

Lyle is on the Dairy Herd Improvement Board (testing) and is a director of the Mankato Federal Land Bank, which Curt Loken of St. Peter manages.

Lloyd Seitzer's Holstein Farm

The Lloyd Seitzer Holstein Farm now owned and operated by Lloyd and wife Betty (Fields) along with son Merlin, was purchased from father Ed, now 90 years of age, and Lloyd's mother, formerly Hazel Schwagler. Lloyd and Betty also purchased Uncle Bill's 120 acres, giving them a total of 240 acres.

Merlin is married to Corrine Anthony, formerly of Norseland, and along with their daughter Angela, they live in the Ed Seitzer house built in 1917. Merlin is the only one of the five boys and one girl to stay on the farm.

The Lloyd Seitzers' 30 registered Holsteins averaged 16,552 lbs. of milk and 622 lbs. of butterfat per cow in 1979. Lloyd and father Ed had a cow (Eke Colantha Goldie) which in 1954 at the age of 17 was the first cow ever in Minnesota and 21st in the USA to produce over 200,000 lbs. of milk in one year.

Lloyd and Merlin use the Midwest Breeders Association, with Herb Monke as technician for breeding their registered Holsteins. They also sell their milk to Bongards Creamery since the close of the Oshawa North Star Creamery about a quarter of a century ago.

Lloyd served on the District 508 School Board, is presently on the Nicollet County Agricultural Society Board (Fair Board), and is a Pioneer Hybrid dealer in Oshawa and Traverse townships. Lloyd's wife, Betty, is program assistant for the ASC office, Jim McClellan, manager.

The Seitzers' farms belong to the Nicollet County, State, and National Holstein Breeders Associations. The Seitzer families credit the 4-H programs, their parents and hard work for what they have today.

The Seitzers' cows have produced a lot of milk since the days when I had their cousin Lawrence Merrill for my CPT flying instructor 40 years ago. He would try to confuse me by flying over the Seitzer farms. Little did I know that I knew Oshawa farms better than I did the back of my hand.

Johnson's Timberdale Holsteins

The Richard Johnsons' Timberdale Holstein farm is located in Oshawa Township, five miles southwest of St. Peter.

In 1955 the Johnsons selected the Timberdale prefix for the herd that today consists of 47 milk cows, 51 calves and bred heifers. In 1980 the herd produced 55,300 lbs. The milk is picked up by Bongards Creamery every other day to be converted into cheese and other dairy products.

Two sons, Dave and Bob, who grew up on the farm, took to city life. Dave is the manager of the Redmen Club here in t. Peter. Bob, who is married to Clint Peters' daughter, Debbie, is employed at John Malmborg's Body Shop, east of St. 'eter. They have two children, Lora and Bill.

All of the Johnsons' sons have been involved in 4-H Club projects and St. Peter High School Future Farmers of America. 'resently, Bruce, who will be a St. Peter High School sophomore, is enrolled in both organizations and has won State Fair rips with his dairy calves the past three years. He also won recognition as the top Junior Holstein Boy in the state in 1979 nd in April of the present year was named the "Star Greenhand" of the St. Peter FFA Chapter.

Son Ed attended the Hutchinson Vo-Tech Dairy Herdsman Class. In addition to assisting the family operation, he works art time for Alvin Piper Consignment and Dispersal Sales.

Dick has been very active in the Nicollet County Holstein Association for over 38 years and held various offices in the ssociation. In March, Dick had the honor of being elected one of 15 directors of the Minnesota Holstein Association.

In late 1979, the Johnsons remodeled the present dairy barn. A 20' x 30' addition was made for maternity pens, and a iquefied manure system was installed. The lagoon is pumped out once a year after harvest and the excellent fertilizer is pread on the fields by a honey wagon. The milking cows are housed in a tie stall barn while the dry cows are kept with the red heifers in a dry lot and loose housing. They are brought into the barn about two weeks before freshening.

The calves are housed in a 26' x 50' cold calf shed and are privileged to be in the individual pens until they are six veeks old. They are then moved to pens with a capacity of two to four calves. Nine months later, they are free to roam with he other cattle.

The Johnson herd is fed high moisture corn stored in a 20' x 30' Harvestore silo. Corn silage and haylage for the herd's onsumption are stored in four additional concrete silos. Besides the dry baled hay, the cows are fed Purina 36% concentrate long with vitamins, minerals, and salt.

Dick and Joanne not only find time for fishing, but are one of the farm families that belong to Shoreland Country Club, njoying golf and fellowship. Pat Thompson, Associated Press writer who plays the Shoreland Labor Day Tournament every ear, frequently asks me about Dick Johnson and Milt Nielsen, whom he has played in the tourney.

Tellijohn Landfill Service, Inc

Tom Tellijohn's landfill is located 1-1/2 miles northwest of the hamlet of Ottawa and is one of the three major industries n the Ottawa perimeter. The others include the world-known Unimin Sand Plant and Carl "Chuckie" Schmidt's mink ranch.

Prior to Tellijohn's era in St. Peter, the garbage and refuse ended up in the city dump located back of the city hall, etween the mill pond and the Minnesota River. The dump was abandoned in the 1960's in favor of the St. Peter State Hospital site, located west of the hospital cemetery and apple orchard. The old dump was seeded down, playground equipment was installed and the site was renamed Riverside Park.

Joe Norman, presently the superintendent of streets for the City of St. Peter, was the city's contracted garbage hauler for 33 years. Joe, with his sidekick, Clarence "Sleepy" Spoors, picked up the garbage twice a week residentially and six times a week commercially. In those days, the garbage men would hoist the well-filled garbage cans to the box of a dump truck (which Joe had two of at the time), to the height of over eight feet. Fortunately, Joe had only a few blocks to drive to dispose of refuse when the dump was practically uptown.

I remember my uncle Julius "Snap" Wolfe (Gracie Michel's father) was a caretaker of the city disposal site, and when ordering people where to dump, he could be heard as far away as Spring Lake. Needless to say, he didn't have to tell anyone twice, despite his small stature. My uncle, the late George MacKenzie, a realtor, would literally burn when showing houses to prospective buyers because they could see the smoke from the dump billowing above the landsite at 3:00 p.m., the regular burning time for Snap. The St. Peter State Hospital site was a deep gorge in the hill that filled rapidly and was closed by the Minnesota State Pollution Control Agency in 1972. The road to the hospital was plowed under, and the terrain of the land was restored.

In 1968, Bill Thompson purchased Joe Norman's business and started the sanitary landfill six miles south of St. Peter and one-half mile east of Highway 22. Bill sold his pickup and landfill business, but with stringent P.C.A. regulations and the unavailability of good help, the operation ceased.

On July 1, 1979, the City of St. Peter entered into a contract with Tom Tellijohn, proprietor of the Tellijohn Landfill Service for the pickup and disposal of refuse. The city's permit enabled Tellijohn to service the St. Peter State Hospital, residential, commercial, and industrial accounts.

Tom, while attending the University of Minnesota for his studies in agricultural economics, worked vacations and weekends for his dad, getting a taste for the business before entering the banking field in Austin, Minnesota.

My first acquaintance with the Tellijohn's was when Tom's father, Keith, was my civil pilot training instructor at the Mankato Airport prior to World War II. Keith, after the war, was co-operator of the St. Peter and Le Sueur airports.

Keith started the Tellijohn firm in 1968 at the present dumping site when it was known as the Le Sueur Disposal operating with one truck and three employees. Le Center, Waterville, Kilkenny and Cleveland were added to the operation in the early 1970's with St. Thomas, Union Hill, Ottawa, Lake Jefferson-German Lake and surrounding rural areas following.

Tom purchased the business from his father on January 1, 1973 as the company maintained four trucks and four employees. With the contracts for Elysian, Henderson and St. Peter (July 1, 1979), the company uses seven packer trucks, four utility trucks and one tractor rig, necessitating eleven employees for total operation.

Darwin Hale, an employee of eleven years, is the landfill operator and co-manager of the operation. Randy Menk and Mel Deutsch, St. Peter residents, are responsible for our city's excellent and dependable service.

Tom has noted the push for recycling and, down the road, the possibility of converting solid waste into energy. The recycling of various products is promoted by the community in such efforts as Dollars for Scholars and the gradual awareness of efficient energy use. Dollars for Scholars, under the auspices of Larry Luedke, has collected 130 tons of paper and cardboard and 20 tons of glass in the past year alone, even though the glass collection was a one-shot deal and only scratched the surface. The monies from the sale of paper and glass has enriched the Dollars for Scholars coffers.

Myer "Whitey" Skoog, Gustavus Adolphus College (G.A.C.) basketball coach and environmentalist, works for the Coca Cola Company during the summer months and in his spare time, recycling cans throughout many Minnesota cities. To date, St. Peter is one of three pilot operations and is recycling 30% of the cans. Whitey is convinced that with an "Awareness Program", 70% of the cans could be recycled. He is spreading the word to more civic organizations that can also profit by the sale of cans, as some already have here and in other communities. Governor Al Quie has designated the week of April 25 as "Clean Up Green Up Week." Whitey believes St. Peter could be the cleanest city in the state.

Tom credits his growth in business not only to the demand, but most importantly to his loyal, productive employees, a good rapport with city, county and state officials, and bankers. The relations between he and his father have always been admirable, especially when he rolled up his sleeves and helped out during the St. Peter acquisition.

While Tom handles St. Peter, Earl Brenke, co-owner of Key City Refuse, ably services the area west and south of St. Peter, and picks up in Mankato.

Tom reminded me that his business is picking up. It sure has!

merican Legion

illiam R. Witty, POST 37

In the spring of 1919, Major Oliver Quane of the Herald met Dr. J.W. Daniels on the street and suggested that an rganization be formed for those in the military and who had served during World War I and were honorably discharged.

The first meeting was called on April 25, 1919 at the St. Peter Armory, and was chaired by World War I seriously ounded vet, Ralph H. Weisgerber (Jim and Dick's father) with 35 servicemen present. Ralph H. Weisgerber was elected resident; John C. Wintheiser, vice president; George Umland, treasurer; and J. Aaron Sheehan, secretary. Charter living embers are Ben Andreen, Al Anfang, Georgia Bittner, O.L. Davis, Herb Filler, Louis Filler, E.C. Foss, Bill High, Clarence ohnson (Burt's father), G. Martens, Cliff McCloskey, Roy B. Miller, Jim Nutter, Howard Ricker, Rudy B. Robeck, Otto chiebel, William Swensk, Rube Seibert, Art Shogren and Jim Welsh.

The St. Peter American Legion Post was named after William R. Witty (son of George Witty's of Oshawa) who lost his fe in France during World War I. The flag that was on his casket is encased at the American Legion Club.

The post presently has a membership of 375 service people, who served in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam onflicts. Four members are women: Georgia Bittner, World War I; Mary Donery, Marcella Hedberg, and Helen Wettergren, orld War II.

In 1923, the State's first American Legion Drum and Bugle Corp contest was held in St. Peter. The St. Peter Post, ccording to the Herald Diamond Jubilee, organized a Drum and Bugle Corp in 1928, with George H. Martens as president, nd Rube (Butch) Seibert as vice president, they personally raised $3,600 up and down the street for uniforms, instruments nd traveling expenses. They practiced once a week on Minnesota Avenue (Highway 169) and I can still remember as a kid, earing the Corp from our farm in Traverse. Members who play that are still around besides Martens and Seibert are Birger ohnson, Herb Filler, Julius Annexstad, Otto Schiebel, Henry Overson, Karl Klein, Jim Nutter of Peroria, Illinois, and Ben oehler of Edina.

The post has sponsored American Legion Baseball since 1930 and has had several teams in the State tournament. The irst team to reach the semi-finals was in 1934 with Bud Allen, Ray Hergert, Mert Kirby, Earl Clasen, Bill and Bud Wettergren, ohn and Click Webster, and Russ Mead. The late "Chuck" Frawley was the manager and was responsible for keeping them line at the University of Minnesota where the tournament was played.

There have been five life-time memberships awarded: Willis Hoyt, Jerry Maloney, Herbert Johnson, Lee Krough and alter K. (Stub) Holz, who is the only survivor. Lee Krough, a former Gustavus Adolphus College (GAC) coach, was warded for 25 years as director of Minnesota Boys State and three years as emeritus director. "Stub" Holz, a dedicated egionaire if there ever was one, won his award for winning all-time memberhip honors.

Present officers of the club are James Wolfe, commander & directory; Ray Vogel, 1st vice commander & director; James teffensmeier, 2nd commander & directory; Allen Braun, Chaplain & director; Doug Pyan, director of finance; Walter K. Holz, argeant at arms, director and acting historian; Harold Rausch, judge advocate & director; Edward (Bud) Mogensen, service fficer; and Larry Skramstad, post adjutant for 13 years, director & club manager for eight; and John Kennedy. When Larry as going to high school, he was the sexton of the Church of Holy Communion. The rector "Bill" Carter didn't mind Larry laying the Beer Barrel Polka on the church organ, but he did take exception when Larry brought his B.B. gun to shoot the ats when flying around the century-old stained glass windows.

The Legion Post, a non-profit organization, spends a ball park figure of $10,000 yearly for community services which nclude baseball, boys and girls state, scouting, flag education, school awards and scholarships, patriotic observances, pee ee hockey, drum and bugel corp, oratorical contest and Christmas movies, just to name a few.

The Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1921 with Eva Dempsey as the first president; Mrs. Andrew LaCroix, vice resident; and Marie (Bill's sister) as secretary. Ila (Mrs. O.L.) Davis, Kathryn Seizter and Anna Ritt are presently the only iving members of the original organization. The membership presently is about 175. The present officers are: Rosie kramstad, president; Becky Braun; 1st vice president; Marian Pyan, 2nd vice president; Rosemary Rausch, secretary; Gladys

Dummer, treasurer; Dorothy Hughes, sargeant at arms; and Charlene Rossow, chaplain. The board consists of Joan Bollum, Idella Carlson who is also the St. Peter State Hospital Auxiliary Chairperson; Rose Skramstad and Lil Wills, who is also poppy chairperson. The auxiliary actively participates with Post 37 in the heart research at the University of Minnesota.

The Legion purchased Dr. Karl Burch's building (now Larry Luedke's) on Third and Grace streets as their 1st headquarters in 1948. The next move was the basement of the old First National Bank and they remained there until moving to the Cliff Hermel building now occupied by Ellis Thompson's apartments. In the late 1950's, the Legion purchased the old Model Dairy building on Third and Nassau, owned by Chet Rasmussen. When the present remodeling is completed by Volk Construction, the quarters will be 32 feet wide and one-half block long.

Nicollet County Veterans Of Foreign Wars

V.F.W. Post 1220

The Nicollet County Post was chartered in 1931. Of the 54 charter members, only Rube Seibert is still living. To qualify for membership, one must have served outside the Continental U.S.A. in the time of war or conflict and have an honorable discharge.

The organization's officers were: Dr. Magnus Peterson, assistant superintendent at the St. Peter State Hospital as 1st commander; Frank Vickers, Sr. Vice commander; Joseph J. Daun, Jr., commander; and Art Glass, Sr. As quartermaster.

The first and long time bugler was Albin (Bones) Nelson. His bugle rests above the entrance door at the club headquarters. The first V.F.W. quarters were above the old Nutter Brothers Hardware Store (then Maid Rite Caf□) and until a few years ago was Darrell Foss Studios.

The first managers were the late Archie Ollerman and Clarence "Clunk" Halvorson. In 1958, the quarters were moved to the Leo Runkel building on Nassau where Jan El's Style House is located. Teddy Wolfe was the post manager until his death. Bob Strand, a left-handed bartender, took over and was with the club as manager when they moved to Al Keppers, former Polar Maid building on Minnesota Avenue. Loren Erickson, from the Norseland area with previous experience at Blenders and The Nicollet House bar, is the present manager who took over the club in 1965.

The Nicollet County Post has had two district commanders: Cliff Strand and Allen Vogel. In 1965, Bob Frey was named All State Commander. Lyle Pearson, a former member of Post 1220 and now of Mankato Post 9713, was National Commander of Disabled Amercican Veterans in 1978.

Stan Hadac and Loren Erickson have received national aid to Camp Award. In 1978 a law was passed permitting eligible women as members. Today, members Georgia Bittner, Georgia Davis, Marcella Hedberg, and Hazel Cluka belong to the post.

At the V.F.W. quarters is a plaque listing the Gold Star Mothers (one who lost a son in the service): Myrtle Kaveney, Clara Olson, Edna Cheever, Stella Brenke, Helen Wettergren, Elfreda Johansen, June Tollefson, Luella Lurth, Ruth Enz, Myrtle Goldberg and Jean McClellan.

Present officers of V.F.W. Post 1220 are: Joseph Merklin, commander; Richard Goodell, senior vice commander; John Kramer, junior vice commander; Allen Vogel, quartermaster; Robert Schmitz, judge advocate; James Weisgerber, chaplain; and Jerome Spiess, surgeon.

The organization, along with the Legion Club, conducts annual Memorial Day services. At the family's request, both organizations conduct funeral services. They have a banquet for World War I Vets, furnish rooms at the St. Peter Community Hospital and Health Care Center, give a gift to each vet at the state hospital on holidays, sponsor a pheasant feed; donate to Santa Anonymous, Camp Courage; Drug Abuse School, Christmas movies, Babe Ruth program, Hockey program, Community Development Job Opportunity Tax Saver's Project, Black Knights & Crusaders Corps when Cliff Hermel was in charge and had sent the high school band representing St. Peter for 2nd district Loyalty Days. They provide a crew for the Independence Day Picnic, sponsor a gun safety program, donate flags for school children, scotch lights for bikes (put on by the police dept.) and the money from the sale of poppies goes toward lodging of destitute veterans.

They sponsor "Voice of Democracy" for students in St. Peter and Nicollet in grades 10,11, and 12. This year's theme is Iy Commitment to my Country." Winners of the district competition in the state contest. State winners go to the national here they can win up to $1,400 in scholarhips. The local post gives $100 to each winner at Nicollet and St. Peter.

The ladies auxiliary was chartered in 1931 with Cordelia Weber as 1st president. Present officers are: Debbie Schmitz, resident; Myrtle Goldberg, senior vice president; Veronica Battig, treasurer; and Susan Derner as secretary. Ida Woelpern is ast president and hospital chairperson for the 2nd district. St. Peter has had two auxiliary presidents: Ida Schoening and Iarcella Lang Verava. The auxiliary is involved in many community and worthwhile projects with cancer research being iost eminent.

While the Legion is noted for its dinner on the first Saturday of the month, the V.F.W. is well-known for its steak fry on ie second Saturday of each month. The proceeds of these dinners go to the many activities listed.

The William R. Witty American Legion Post 37 and the V.F.W. Post 1220 organizations are very compatible. They have a ooperative understanding as they share helmets with their emblems on each side. They both have military funerals at the equest of the deceased family.

The only military post prior to the Legion and V.F.W. was the Captain A.K. Skaro Post G.A.R. whose members served for ie Grand Army of the Republic during Civil War days.

The commonly called "Rec Field" was named Veterans Field in memory of the World War I and II veterans.

The St. Peter community and organizations have been recipient of the generosity of the Legion and V.F.W. since their nception. It is no accident that the Legion and Vets have won many state awards, including conservation awards. They ave been ranked the best in the state. As the late Dizzy Dean once said, "If you've done it, it aint' bragging". They truly ave done it.

Jaycox R. & I. Drainage, Jaycox Pump Company

The tiling of land began centuries ago when the Babylonians tiled the Nile River region. Tiling was also practiced in the arshy fens in eastern England as well as in Italy's Po River valley. The first form of tile was flax straw laid on the bottom of trench. The straw would not rot in a trench filled with water.
n Nicollet County, the first tiling was done near the Paul Johnson farm in Lake Prairie Township. The clay tile was shipped o Traverse by rail and then transported by horse-drawn wagons to the farm. The tiling in the early days was done by hand he 'Armstrong' method). Harry Benson, Allan Davis, Pete Monahan, the Johnson brothers (Carl and Ephrian), George Iygard, and Irishman Warren Osborne were some of the local people that did tiling. Nygard and Osborne still talk about the ackbreaking work.

Chris Kelsen built a cement tile factory in 1917 on the premises where Vena now operates her Traverse Caf□. (Chris' first ob was for Anton Derner, the Derner boys' father, east of St. Peter in Le Sueur County.)
n 1946, Chris relieved his workers of hard work by purchasing a Buckeye Tiling Machine. The machine later was bought by Ioward Pehrson and now rests in the R. & I. Drainage yard as a remembrance of yesteryear. Kelsen's second machine, also Buckeye, was purchased in 1948 and later sold to long-time employee George Nygard in 1958. George claims that in 1950, ney laid an unbelievable 150,000 feet of tile.

The Jaycox Company was started in 1948 by Don and Lucile Jaycox of Lake Park, Iowa, where they were partners in a ling firm. Don, one of 11 children, grew up on a farm in the Hawkeye State during the depression, so he is well acquainted vith hard work and lean times.

Don's first tiling job was a Nicollet County job located near the Alan Burgs in Granby Township in 1961. The Jaycoxes ave done more tiling for Alan than anyone since starting in business. By word of mouth, the news of Don's reputation pread quickly, which necessitated moving his full operation to St. Peter in 1965.

When Don first began tiling, the U. S. Soil Conservation Department supplied the surveying free of charge and paid for one third of the cost of tiling. In 1958, while attending a seminar that included short courses in job planning, surveying and drainage at Iowa State University, the Jaycoxes were told that by 1975 people would go hungry if tiling were not practiced more extensively.

The Jaycox Company, in one year with two tiling machines, a bulldozer, and two backhoes, laid 350,000 feet. The tiles, usually ranging from six to twelve inches in diameter, are laid end to end at approximately 4 sq. feet to gain the maximum drainage.

In Nicollet County, most of the drainage water runs into Swan Lake and the Minnesota River. Would you believe that, as a Boy Scout in 1932, I hiked across bone dry Swan Lake?

While the tiling season usually extends from early spring to late fall, one winter the Jaycoxes put in 87,000 feet in peat ground for Al McQuinn near Nicollet. The largest single job ever completed by Jaycox was 100,000 feet laid for the Wenner Brothers. Numerous other jobs ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 feet were not uncommon.

In order to provide a complete drainage system, the Jaycoxes entered the pump business in 1965, selling their first pump to Leonard Rudenick in the Nicollet area. Since then, they have placed 55 pumps in Nicollet County and have sold pumps direct or through contractors in South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kentucky, and Georgia. These pumps have a capacity anywhere from 150 gallons to 5,000 gallons per minute.

In 1976, our Bicentennial year, the elder Jaycoxes sold the drainage business to son Roger and wife Ilene, thus the name R. & I. Drainage. Roger was no stranger to the tiling business, having worked in the fields for Don while growing up.

The Jaycoxes purchased 1 1/2 acres from Merritt Cody a couple of years ago to erect a 50 x 80-foot steel structure. The new building, with the 30 x 40 foot storage building, gives the ever-growing firm adequate quarters. The Jaycox firm presently is laying 60,000 feet of tile near Montevideo in Chippewa County. Ilene keeps the crew of four contented with her home-cooked meals.

Don said that, with the new tiling machine, it is possible to lay 100,000 feet per day.

The Jaycox Pump Company was purchased in 1978 by son Larry and son-in-law Bill Riebesell. The company shop is located on 1 acres of land purchased from Herb Chilman near St. Peter Tile and R. & I. Drainage. A 40 x 100 foot building serves as headquarters where motor brackets and pump frames are manufactured by Larry and Bill.

The Jaycox firm is a member of the National and State Land Improvement Contractors Associations. While attending the annual convention in Orlando this past winter, they took orders for three pumps, which were shipped to southern Georgia. The company sends a truck to Idaho yearly to pick up as many as 40 or 50 pumps at a time. These are for stock to be assembled later to fit each application. Jaycox Pump Company, Inc. are the distributors for 37 of the eastern states.

Don and Lucile, now retired, endured the trials and tribulations and hard work to gain success. Don says that they are grateful to the scores of farmers, large and small, for their support and patronage.

St. Peter Firms Lay Fine Groundwork

Keeley-Davis Farm Drainage, Inc. Nicollet County, which was surveyed by Jean Nicollet in 1635, consists of 311,000 acres. According to Bill Geary, Nicollet County Soil Conservationist, the county consists of 20,000 acres of water, 12,000 acres of pastureland, 18,000 acres of forest, 29,000 acres of urban area, roads, fences, etc., and 232,000 acres of cropland. Of the 232,000 acres of cropland, 130,000 are wet soil with approximately 35% adequately tiled by 25 million feet of tile.

Joe Keeley, a native of Janesville and a 15-year employee of the U.S. Government Department of Soils, realized the potential of tiling and joined Terry Davis and Paul Johnson in the farm drainage firm in 1975. Terry, a former employee of A. D. C. Manufacturing in St. Peter, and Paul Johnson, a Lake Prairie farmer, had started the firm the previous year.

The first tiling machine was purchased in 1974 from the late Dewey Herbst of Oshawa. Presently, the firm equipment onsists of a six-foot and a seven-foot tiling machine, two backhoes, two gravel trucks, and one “Cat”. This is quite a ontrast compared with Rollie Lager and Cliff Strand, brother of Sherman Strand, digging by hand in earlier times. (Rollie and liff installed tile before Cliff was part of the Merchant Marine during World War II.)

Aerial maps from the Nicollet County Soil Conservation Office have been a help, aid, and assistance in planning and onstruction of the jobs. When the job is finished, the landowner, the Nicollet county Soil Conservation Service, and the rainage firm each receive a copy of the record for their files.

The soils of Nicollet County are a deposit from the Des Moines lobe of the Wisconsin glacier that occurred over 10,000 ears ago. The cost of tiling depends upon the soil and by rule-of-thumb, a cost of approximately $500.00 per acre. The tile sually runs in patterns with the tile lines laid between 80 and 100 feet apart. Blind inlets, constructed with coiled plastic le, surrounded by 3/4 inch rock, are readily used to prevent being hit by the farmer’s plow.

The Keeley-Davis firm has employed as many as seven people during the peak season. The firm, as were the Jaycoxes, as lavish in their praise of Keith Connor, owner of the St. Peter Tile Company. They agree that Keith not only puts out a uality product, but also is a congenial person who extends excellent service.

eters’ Sodding

Clint Peters (St. Peter’s Jolly Green Giant) and his brother-in-law, Mike Trimbo, became interested in the sodding usiness 22 years ago, when they painted Al and Ann Cole’s Sunnyside Greenhouse after the Webster Brothers Construction oved the greenhouse from the south end of town to the present location. The Websters moved the building without reaking a pane of glass. However, Clint and Mike, when painting the greenhouse, couldn’t say the same.

Clint is an employee of the Minnesota Security Hospital, with a built-in labor force of eleven children and wife Kathy. lint and brother-in-law Mike purchased the sodding business from Al and Ann as a sideline business. As the business grew, lint and Kathy purchased Mike’s interest in 1962.

The pasture sod that was first used required watering, mowing, fertilizing, and weed killing. The sod was burdensome, eing cut 9 feet by 12 inches and 1 1/2 to 2 inches deep. This is quite different from tilers who dig 3 to 15 feet down to lay le. Clint would walk behind the sod cutter followed by the boys on their hands and knees rolling the sod to be placed on ucks.

Clint now rides a sulky behind the cutter that automatically cuts, rolls, and flips the sod. The sod is now purchased from obert Meyer, Sunturf Farm, located three miles west of St. Peter just off the Fort Road. The cultured sod is grown on peat round and is considerably lighter as it is cut about an inch deep and 6 feet by 18 inches.

The ground is carefully raked before the sod is laid and watered so the roots will properly anchor in 1 1/2 weeks.

The first residential jobs completed by Peters were the yards of Everett Seibert and Les Peterson. Clint said, they did all f the sodding for the late Norma MacKenzie’s 110 homes. Records reveal that the Peters have laid sod for institutions, urches, contractors, developers, residences, and schools, with the South Elementary School grounds being the biggest job. he Peters have employed 70 Kasota and St. Peter youngsters since taking over the business.

Clint and Kathy have been assisted in the sodding business by their children Mark, Paul, John, Ray, David, Becky, ebbie, Pam, and brother-in-law, Charlie Homer. Kathy, bookkeeper and chief waterer, said that with children Lisa, Jim, ob, and seven grandchildren in the wings, the business could go on forever.

cks Living Center And Homeline Furniture Serve St. Peter

The Egyptians began the skill of furniture making 4,000 years before Christ. In the United States, the first furniture ctory was started by a cabinetmaker, William Haldane, at Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1848. Soon, many furniture factories rang up, making Grand Rapids the “Furniture Capital of America”. Today, however, High Point, North Carolina, enjoys that onor.

In 1857, shortly after the founding of the City of St. Peter, the Kleins opened a furniture factory and retail furniture store. In 1882, Volk Furniture Factory began operation, followed by the Hulett Factory.

Eck's Living Center

Upon graduation from Bemidji State University, having been awarded his Bachelor of Science degree, and from St. Cloud State University, where he earned a Master of Science degree, Larry Eck then entered the field of education.

It was while coaching and teaching in Glencoe that Larry became interested in the "Gateway to Heaven City", St. Peter. In 1975, Gloria, an interior designer, and Larry, a middle school principal at Thief River Falls, decided to cast their lot with St. Peter.

The Ecks purchased the 92 x 42 foot former Wettergren building at 305 South Minnesota Avenue to open their Living Center. To gain the much needed warehouse space, the Ecks purchased the old 8,000 square foot State Theater Building.

The opportunity to expand to Mankato in 1978 and to New Ulm in 1980 became a challenge. The three stores have aided the Ecks in becoming the largest retailer of floor and wall coverings outside of the Twin Cities according to the F. G. Anderson Company.

Larry and Gloria keep abreast by attending the National Home Furnishings Market held in Dallas, Texas or in High Point, North Carolina. Larry also belongs to the Minnesota Retail Federation and Gloria is a Director on the Home Furnishings Board.

Gloria relates that the first residential job was for the Bud Wettergrens' new home in South Traverse. Needless to say, she remembers the vivid compliment Bud rendered them in assessing their work.

The Living Center lists countless residential and commercial customers. The largest account is a Mankato firm with factories and offices throughout the United States, each requiring wall and floor coverings.

Larry and Gloria are assisted part time by sons Darren and Derric, who have already participated in two state baseball tournaments. Some of the other non-family employees are Brenda Isley, bookkeeper and manager, Nancy Lindquist, designer, and Dawn Holteen, a recent graduate from Mankato State University.

Larry said that they anticipated the change in customer buying and went to the special customer-ordering concept in 1980, which has been very successfully accepted. The Ecks' and their employees' main focus has been to work closely with customers in their homes where the Ecks' personnel help select colors, textures, fabrics, and schemes to give the customers a complete service.

Homeline Furniture

Robert Geldner, Sr. first became interested in woodwork while assisting his father in the operation of the old Geldner Sawmill. The historic mill, located on the family farm on Lake Jefferson, is listed on the National, State, and Le Sueur County registry. The mill, restored and open, will be formally dedicated with the sawing of logs powered by the old steam engine this October. In early days, the sawdust from the mill was used to pack ice harvested from nearby lakes, while the wood scraps were used to fuel the steam engine.

In 1935, Bob took a job as District Supervisor for Mormon Feeds, being responsible for 25 salesmen. Five years later, Bob moved to the Gault building in St. Peter where he sold feed, supplies, and poultry medicine (which he concocted.) He also did custom spraying and feed grinding on the farms. When the Gault building was sold in 1949 for the Red Owl parking lot, Bob moved across the Minnesota River to East St. Peter.

The next spring was the first of four devastating floods, that took part of the Geldner building and Highway 99 from Geldner's property to Spring Lake.

In 1951, Bob founded the Homeaid Furniture business, starting on a small scale. The business still grew, despite four floods that not only paralyzed his business, but also struck a severe blow to many St. Peter businesses.

When Bob semi-retired in 1975, the business name became known as Homeline Furniture. Bob says that, despite his ge, he does most of the buying, advertising, and consulting along with caring for his seven rentals on Lake Jefferson and x units in St. Peter.

Bob's daughter, Roberta Mulvehill, and Lyle Johnson, along with some part-time employees are responsible for the usiness operation. The 32-year- old firm bases its business on valued and repeated customers, who can purchase a omplete line of budget furniture or name brands to suit their needs.

Bob says that the furniture industry has come a long way since his father sold boards to the Klein Furniture Factory to ake coffins for the deceased at the State Hospital.

he Decorating Center

The Decorating Center, owned and operated by Ron and Kayla (Engel) Wiebold, is located at 804 North Minnesota venue.

The Wiebolds and brother-in-law Ken Kozel started the Center in the Marwey building on the south side of town in 978. Due to the planning and zoning regulations, it was moved to the present quarters a year later, at which time the Viebolds purchased the Kozel interest.

The land where the Center now sits is part of the cheapest and one of the most significant transactions in our nation's istory, the signing of the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux in 1851. The United States government purchased the 24 million cres of land from the 36 chiefs who signed the treaty for only 16 cents per acre. The Center site was purchased by the now eceased Soren Smidt, who sold the land to the late Ray Olson, Sr., who constructed a new Fairway Store on the premises.

A decade later, the building was demolished and a deluxe Fairway Shopping Center was built for Warren Wilke, who ad purchased the Olson Fairway business.

Bernie McGuire and Robert (Cobby) Thomas purchased the building from the Olson estate upon the passing of Ray, Sr. 1971. The north portion of the building is leased to the Wiebolds for their Decorating Center.

Ron, a native of Mapleton, upon completion of his high school career, attended Bethany Lutheran College and Mankato tate University before spending four years in the U. S. Air Force.

It was at Mankato State University that Kayla and Ron met. After completing his service stint in Colorado Springs, olorado, he worked in that city as a painter and paperhanger for seven years.

In 1978, they returned to Kayla's hometown to engage in their own decorating business. The first commercial job the Viebolds undertook was for Bob Swedberg at Swedberg's Snyder Drug. The latest commercial jobs were the complete nterior decorating at the First National Bank and the wall covering at the Klein Funeral Home. Kayla said a noted change as taken place in their type of business with non-wax linoleum, nylon carpeting, prepasted wall covering, and latex paint eing in greater demand in today's market.

To add to this busy schedule, Ron has recently been appointed as the new baseball coach at Gustavus Adolphus ollege, a position for which he is well qualified. Ron participated in baseball while in the service and played fast pitch oftball with the Happy Chef team of North Mankato. He has the distinction of having played in the National Softball ournament at Saginaw, Michigan and Phoenix, Arizona. Being from Mapleton, the "Curling Capital of Minnesota", he and ayla have curled in the national tournaments held in Utica, New York, Chicago, Illinois, and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Wiebolds, active in the Chamber of Commerce and Northenders, have children Jennipher, 13 years old, and Sarah, 9 ears old, who are already following in their parents' athletic footsteps.

Ron said that their decision to return to the "Saintly City" was truly a vision from St. Peter.

Hawkins Jewelry Is A Gem Of A Business For The City

Roy T. and Marilyn Hawkins, owners and operators of Hawkins Jewelers arrived in St. Peter in October of 1953.

The Hawkins, natives of New Richmond, Wisconsin, had their roots in that community until World War II when Roy served in the U. S. military for four years in Africa, India, Burma, and China.

(When mentioning Burma, we old timers can't help but remember two St. Peterites, John Dean who lost his life flying the Burma "hump" for the Flying Tigers and Dr. Don Olmanson who practiced medicine with the famous Dr. Gordon Seagrave, the Burma Surgeon and Dr. Violet Kinson. Dr. Kinson, brought here by the St. Peter Clinic, is now on the medical staff at the Minnesota State Security Hospital.)

Shortly upon completion of his military career, Roy enrolled in watchmakers' school in Kansas City, Missouri and in St. Paul, Minnesota. Roy served his apprenticeship in the watch repair department at the Emporium Store in St. Paul and at Breault's in New Richmond.

When the Hawkins purchased the jewelry business from Wally Ordall, the business was located in the building now owned by Dick Swenson of the Swenson Insurance Agency on Nassau Street. The only watch repair shop when Roy came to St. Peter was Harold Johnson until Walter "Bill" Moss opened a shop.

In 1965, the Hawkins' business moved to the present location at 222 South Minnesota Avenue. Ellery Peterson purchased the building, now owned by Dr. Michael Dieter, from the Nicollet County Bank.

Everyone's work and play schedules revolve around time. The railroad was responsible for standardizing time zones tha we know today. By the way, the official watches for the railroad were Elgin, Hamilton, and Illinois 21-jewel watches.

Watches have made great improvements since Peter Henlein, a locksmith from Nurnberg, Germany invented the first watch in the 1500's. Today there are over 150 companies making watches, with Switzerland the leading country followed by Germany, France, Italy, and the United States.

The wristwatch became popular during the World War I era while the electronic watch came into its own about 1952. The advent of the electronic watch has been a factor in keeping the price down where most people can afford one.

One of the biggest changes Roy has seen in the jewelry business has been the fluctuation in prices of gold and silver. Gold has gone from $32.00 per ounce to over $800.00 and then down to $400.00 per ounce. Silver went from $5.00 per ounce to $50.00 (when the Hunts tried to control the market) and then back down to $7.00.

Besides watch repair, Hawkins handles diamonds, rings, gifts, watches, and sundry items.
Marilyn, part-time worker and owner, has worked for Judge Sam Abrahamson, the public library, and Rolfe Hanson (State Farm Insurance). She is presently working at the MVSAC Unit at the State Hospital.

Roy says they have enjoyed a good, friendly relationship with their customers and wouldn't trade St. Peter even for Traverse.

This appeared in the December 9, 1982 issue of the St. Peter Herald.

St. Peter Oil Companies Are Still Strong

Wright Oil Company

James R. Wright, owner of the Wright Oil Company, is another St. Peter native to return home after World War II to ente the fuel business. Jim's great-grandfather, Thomas C. Wright, arrived in St. Peter shortly after the city was founded in 1853. Records reveal that his great-grandfather was the first Clerk of the St. Peter (School) District No. 1 in 1865.

Upon completion of his education from District No. 3 Traverse and St. Peter, Jim worked with his father, Tom, on the mily farm in North Traverse Township. This was the farm that his grandfather, J. P. Wright, had bought over a century ago.

From 1941-1945 Jim served in the armed forces. Having spent time overseas, he was eligible for membership in William Witty American Legion Post No. 37 and the St. Peter V. F. W. Post 1220, where he served both organizations as mmander.

Jim, knowing the farmers as well as the back of his hand, founded the Wright Oil Company in 1946. The business he ok over was first known as the Barber Oil Company and later Cities Service, with Hans Hanson as the bulk tank driver. ell-known people such as Oscar Johnson, Rudy Scholl, Clem Lange, and the late Vern Johnson, who was Jim's neighbor uring his youth, followed Hans.

Jim has seen the company's logo change as well as its colors. In 1965, Cities Service became Citgo, displaying the red d white triangle emblem and a gray and white truck touched with red and orange stripes. In the following year, before the lors were barely dry, Gulf purchased all of Cities Service's holdings in the five-state area and colors became blue and ange. In 1973, when fuel was scarce and allocated, Gulf wanted to leave the area. Jim was confronted with a plant or uying all of Gulf's holdings in St. Peter. Jim and his wife, Gert, who now serves as bookkeeper, decided to purchase the oldings. The truck colors were changed to the present bayberry and white with blue letters.

The colors are not the only things changed since 1946. The bulk tanks were first located adjacent to the old Chicago-orthwestern depot south of the Washington Apartments. When the railroad went out, Wright purchased property on North hird and St. Julien where his two 12,000 and two 15,000 gallon tanks are now located.

The price of fuel has changed drastically. Number 2 fuel oil sold for 7.2 cents a gallon and gas at 20 cents a gallon. oday the tax alone is more than the early costs of fuel and gas with the combined state and federal taxes soon to be 22 ents a gallon.

In the 1940s, gasoline was hauled in by Ruan transport from Clear Lake, Iowa. Today, Wright's products are purchased om the Union Oil Company in Minneapolis, with the gas being shipped to the terminal by barge up the Mississippi River. ransports in the 1940s looked like they had four large barrels on them crosswise. A fill of 40 to 50 gallons was not ncommon, with an occasional five-gallon fill when Jim started. Today a fill is usually 500 to 1,000 gallons.

Jim and Gert are most grateful to their loyal farmers and friends and are especially blessed as most of their children and randchildren (5th and 6th generation) are living in St. Peter. Bob (co-owner of Whiskey River) and his wife Richie, Sandra Mrs. Verl Pettis), Rick and his wife Terri, and Lori (Mrs. Steve Nygard) all reside in St. Peter. Paul lives in Portland, Oregon, nd Mark lives in St. Paul. Grandchildren include Sandra and Verl's three sons Daniel, Michael, and Steven, and Rick and erri's children Kelcie and Derik.

horn Oil Company

Dennis Thorn, proprietor of Thorn Oil Company, is also a descendant of a pioneer family. Denny, as his friends call m, was born in Oshawa Township near the Schucks' North Start Store and attended School District No. 23. (Incidentally, is was the school my mother taught at in 1915 and some of her students were from the Boys, Bresnahan, Prom, and Mans milies. She roomed and boarded at Don Boys' grandparents' the Frank Boys.) In 1943, Denny moved with his folks to wer Traverse just north of historic Traverse des Sioux to the Ahlstrom farm (Oscar and sister Anne) on Highway 169.

When the elder Thorns sold the farm in 1945, Denny took a job as a mechanic at Buetz Motors in Le Sueur. From ence, to Bode and Swenson Implement Company where he was engaged in selling Case machinery. The implement ompany was where the Swedberg Drug Store and parking lot is now located.

In 1951, Denny entered the U. S. Army and served in Korea before being discharged in 1953. Upon his return, he sumed his duties at Bode and Swenson until taking over the Skelly bulk business from Matt Keller. Previous Skelly drivers ho were no strangers to the community were "Bucky" Walter, Charlie Kirby, and Gene Weber.

When Jay Brown met with a tragic death in 1970, Denny took over Jay's Standard bulk business. Jay had purchased the usiness from the late Willard "Spike" Leonard.

Denny moved the bulk tanks from the flood area near Peavey Elevator, now the St. Peter Grain and Feed, to the presen quarters behind Isley Motors on old Highway 169 and St. Julien Street.

In the early years, Barry Fifield, who drove for Haugdahl Pure Oil, and Henry Schaus, longtime driver for Traverse Rura Oil Co-op, pailed the gas from the bulk truck to the farmers' tanks via five-gallon gas buckets. The gallons were kept track of by a hand meter on the inside back doors of the truck. Today separate meters are used for gas and fuel oil to comply wit state regulations.

When Denny started in 1956, the tractors were mostly run by gas. Today, diesel fuel powers the tractors that pull the 7, 8, or 10-bottom plows and other heavy machinery. Denny's largest customer purchases approximately 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year. The price of diesel since Denny started has gone from 14 cents per gallon to $1.14 and gas has gone from 16 cents per gallon to $1.25.

The Thorns were recently singled out along with the Bill Gustafsons as the two four-generation families at the First Lutheran Church's 125th anniversary. Denny and his wife, Lorraine, have two children, Steve, who lives in South St. Paul, and Denise (Mrs. Larry Greenig), who works part-time for Dr. Dahleen's office. They have one grandchild-Denise and Larry's son Nicholas.

Denny says a lot of gas has gone down the road since the gas trucks had a chain attached to the rear to ground static electricity.

Southern Valley Co-op Still Thrives

On March 20, 1931, during the "Great Depression", 50 farmers assembled at the historic Traverse Town Hall to form the Rural Oil Association of Nicollet County.

The first temporary board consisted of Albert Miller as chairman, J. J. Daun as secretary, Robert Meyer, Ed Slatum, and Emil Johnson.

Traverse was the logical choice for the plant because Traverse farmers had also organized the Traverse Telephone Company, the first creamery in Nicollet County (Willow Lawn), the Shipping Association, and the Farmers' Elevator. A vote was spread for the location with Traverse receiving 21 votes, St. Peter 14, and the other 15 farmers could not have cared less.

The old Chris Kelsen's tile factory, now Vena Parson's garage, was offered for $600.00. The elevator across the road offered a railroad siding free for the first year and $50.00 for each subsequent year. Naturally, the price was right so the elevator offer was accepted.

The first board at the first annual meeting listed Louis Yost as president, Albert Miller as secretary/treasurer/manager, and Ed Slatum, Rob Meyer, and J. J. Daun.

The Association's capital was set at $12,000.00 with shares at $25.00 (later $10.00) with no shareholder owning more than $1,000 in stock. The indebtedness or liability was not to exceed more than $5,000.00.

Henry Schaus was hired as bulk tank driver and assistant manager. He provided his own truck for which he received 1 cent per gallon on gas and kerosene, and 3 cents per gallon on oil, and 5 cents on grease. He also had to stand all the unauthorized accounts. The Association contracted to buy their products from Midland Oil Association at 5 cents below the Red Crown price at the pumps.

Traverse, known for its great baseball teams, hit the Association for $5.00 towards the purchase of baseball uniforms. The Association refused, but the directors each gave them $1.00 from their directors' fees in the name of Rural Oil Co-op Association of Nicollet County.

In 1936, with business expanding, Albert Miller, secretary-treasurer, received $200.00 per year as manager. Miller, Yost, and Schaus each spent more than two decades in the embryonic stages of the Association. Sidney Johnson, Herb Kuehn, Russell Wolfe, Ora Webster, Herb Chillman, Franklin (Shorty) Pehrson, George Osborne, Alton Jacobson, and Bud Miller were names often mentioned as early directors of the Association.

The business expanded east of St. Peter, necessitating a second driver, Allen Strand, to serve that area. The late Howard hrson succeeded Strand.

In 1937, the Cleveland area formed its own association with Anton Derner, John Mulvehill, and Walter Rohlfing as rectors. In July of the same year, the Le Sueur County Oil Association consolidated with the Rural Oil Co-op Association of collet County. The new board of directors was Louis Yost, Albert Miller, Jim Beattie, Charles Poncin, Anton Derner, and alter Rohlfing. Leon Brunsvold became the bulk driver for the co-op in the Cleveland area.

In 1943, the name was officially changed to the Rural Oil Association of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties. Willmar Gibbs as hired as the bulk driver at $135.00 per month less payroll taxes to serve the territory east of St. Peter.

The tanks were moved from Cleveland and Traverse to the present site in St. Peter between the North Star Plant and hiskey River. Russell Hanson, bulk driver for 13 years, and Otis Carter moved the tanks from Traverse. This was a big deal at the time. They had to let some of the air out of the truck tires in order to cross the Broadway Bridge. Despite being cated on four feet of fill, the six bulk tanks had four feet of water around them during the 1965 flood.

Myrtle Westman Welsh ran the Association's downtown office in the Covell building on Third Street where Shoop's loon is now located. Shirley Glass (Dr. Art's sister) replaced Myrtle at $60.00 per month less taxes, with a paid vacation. aine DeZeeuw, who had been with the Minnesota School Board Association for 18 years, received her apprenticeship as a cretary at the Rural Co-op Oil Association of Nicollet County office.

In 1966, the Rural Co-op Oil Association of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties joined forces with the Blue Earth Valley Co-o Association to become the Southern Valley Co-op Association with headquarters in Mankato. The Association's present oard of directors is Don Farm, Ron Matzke, Roger Muellerleile, John Mertesdorf, Marvin Leideng, and St. Peter Area hamber of Commerce members Doug Fitzke and Gary Wendelschafer.

General Manager, Ralph Baumgartner, has 35 years of ag experience and has been the general manager since 1970.

St. Peterites employed by Southern Valley are Wayne Wendell, the Petroleum and L. P. Division Manager; Bruce Burt, the ılk driver; and Manly Larson, the L. P. driver and serviceman.

The Association presently has plants in Mankato, St. Peter, Elysian, Good Thunder, and Vernon Center.

The co-op, which has a thriving business in petroleum, fertilizer, and their cardtrol station, generated $5,800,000.00 in usiness during the past year. The net worth of Southern Valley is $2,875,000.00 according to the last report. This is quite an crease since the $12,000.00 capitalization in 1931 at the organizational meeting in Traverse.

his appeared in the January 27, 1983 issue of the St. Peter Herald.

istory Of Harland's Tire And Auto Center Shows Performance

Harland's Tire and Auto Center, located in East St. Peter, was once the John Deere Implement Building owned by Ken nd Marcie Santelman. There were six implement dealers in St. Peter when the Santelmans ran their John Deere business. ome of their employees were Bob Brown, Maynard Vaughan, Jim Beatty (who is now the Nicollet County Assessor), Dennis runs, Ken Oslund (who was a partsman and is now in the Register of Deeds Office), and Joanne Clobes Stangler as ookkeeper.

Ken sold the building to the late Chet Willer of Mankato just prior to the devastating flood of 1965 that took the utheast corner of the building along with part of Highway 99.

The ravaging waters relieved Peavey Elevator of 100,000 bushels of beans when the bottom of the elevator let loose.

In 1974, the Goodyear Tire Center managed by Bob Millard, set up business in the quarters. Mike Doerre became the manager in 1978 when Bob was promoted to supervisor of the Goodyear stores in St. Peter, St. James, Owatonna, and Faribault. Incidentally, Mike is now the manager of the Goodyear store in Rochester.

Bob and Harland Strohschein, with 30 years of experience at Owatonna, became co-owners of the Goodyear business i 1981.

The tire centers in St. Peter and St. James are each covered by two trucks and Owatonna and Faribault each have only one truck. Tom Bittner and Rick Wilde, Jr operate St. Peter trucks. The stores service a radius from 30 to 40 miles and are greatly assisted by a two-way radio system.

Tires have changed and improved with the times since Charles Goodyear and Harvey Firestone started manufacturing rubber tires.

I remember as a kid when every car had a tire kit that contained rubber patches, cement, and a rough cover. It was not uncommon to fix a tire on our Model T while traveling three miles from our Oak Grove Farm in Traverse to St. Peter.

Harland's handles lawn mower, garden, auto and tractor tires that range from the smallest 350 by 4 lawn mower to the largest 26 to 5 by 25 loader tire. The farm rear tires range in size for 8 by 3 by 24 inches in height to 30 by 5 by 32 as the widest and heaviest. To us lay people, the numbers mean height, width, and diameter of the tire rim.

The rubber tractor tire is quite a contrast to the steel-lugged wheel John Deere first used a half century ago.

In 1966, the U. S. Congress passed the first tire safety laws that established the much-needed quality, size, and strength tire regulations.

The biggest change seen by Harland and Bob has been the switch from from bias to radial tires. Auto tires have changed from the 4-ply fabric to the steel all-season tires. Truck tires have gone from the tube type fabric to the tubeless radial tires.

Recently, Goodyear has come out with an exclusive long bar-short bar rear farm tire. Radial tires now account for about 70 percent of the store's sales compared with 20 percent back in 1974. The main differences among tires are the methods of manufacturing.

Along with Bob, the Auto Center employs five full-time people. Dave Kittleson, the assistant manager handles dealer and commercial sales. Judy Bruns, with the exception of a few months, has been the bookkeeper since Goodyear started in St. Peter. Tom Bittner and Rick Wilde, Jr. take care of sales and service. Steve Giroux, a certified mechanic, does the wheel alignment, tune-ups and installation of exhaust systems. With all the services they perform, it is no wonder that Harland's letterhead reads "the largest and most complete tire center in the area".

This article appeared in the March 10, 1983 issue of the St. Peter Herald.

Elbert's Electronics Building Built In Traverse, Circa 1872

Elbert's Electronics, owned and operated by John C. Elbert, is located in beautiful downtown St. Peter, in what was once known as the Swanbeck building at 204 South Minnesota Avenue. The late William A. (Bill) Ritt, in 1929 named Minnesota Avenue (or Highway 169) the "Great White Way". It was so named because of the completed pavement job by Hallett Construction and the installation of the new streetlights.

Elbert's historical 22 x 65 foot red brick building was constructed for George Kramer in the year 1872 on land purchased from the St. Peter Land Company, organized in 1854. The unusual red brick building was the Myrick building from Traverse des Sioux which was torn down and moved brick by brick.

The Myrick name was well-known to the Indians, for it was a storekeeper in the lower agency by the name of Andrew yrick who made the fatal remark, “Let them eat grass” when payment was due to the Indians for land in accordance with e1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. In 1862, during the uprising, his body was found with his mouth stuffed full of grass.

N. George Swanbeck purchased the historic building, added on, and opened a popular and prosperous confectionery usiness. His son, George, a dentist, occupied the front upstairs until he met an untimely death over 30 years ago.

In 1915, the Swanbecks sold the confectionery to a long-time employee, Carl Swenson. Carl, with his brothers Frank and us, changed the name to the College Inn Cafe However, to the high school and Gustavus students who assembled there in roves after games, it was known as “Swede’s” or “Teddy Bears”. The strongest drink one could obtain at “Swede’s” was a reen river. Georgia Cobblers were a specialty only employee Josephine (Ostad) Pitmon could concoct to the students’ tisfaction.

In 1939, Carl Swenson sold the building to the Hauser brothers, Millard and Jerry. Many remember the Hauser name, for eir father was the minister at the Union Presbyterian Church for years. The late Gib and Helen Ewalt (Mrs. Karl Burch) urchased the business in 1940 and added a pharmaceutical department, thus changing the name to Ewalt Drugs.

The now-deceased Larry and Minetta Dry purchased the drug store in 1947 and remained at the location until 1950 hen they purchased the Helen Bornemann building, now owned and operated by Dave Webber, who has the “fun & anks” amusement business.

Frank Backlund, Jr. operated a music store and newspaper “Reminder” in the Swanbeck building for two years before arold Paul opened an appliance and wallpaper business. The building was no stranger to Harold as he had lived upstairs s a youngster in 1903. The late Walter “Bill” Moss, many years a watch repairman, had his bench in a corner of the first oom.

Pete Schrock purchased the 100 year-old building in 1971 from George Swanbeck, Jr. I also recall as Chairman of the ommunity Education Council, signing a three-year lease for the use of the main floor.

John Elbert, a native of Algona, Iowa, having spent four years in the U. S. Air Force and one year at Iowa State, pursued is interest in electronics by graduating from DeVry Technical Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

John worked five years with Sandia Research and Development Corporation at Albuquerque, New Mexico and five years the Honeywell plant in Hopkins, Minnesota before engaging in his own electronics and television business in New Prague 1970. While at New Prague, John was named the 1971 “Outstanding Jaycee of the Year” as a result of his community volvement.

In 1974 John purchased Russell Thomas’s TV business on the north end of St. Peter. The building is now owned and ccupied by Bloom’s Sports Center.

John purchased the historic Swanbeck building from the Schrocks in August of 1975 and when the Community ducation moved out, he moved his operation to the present quarters in 1976. The Community Education Center had moved the late Earl Lomis building, acquired by the City of St. Peter.

John’s ambition and pride induced him to restore the building to its original authenticity of 1873. Would you believe it ok eight gallons of paint and varnish remover and weeks of elbow grease to refinish the front windows and door?

It is interesting to note that the round windows on the second floor were restored by using the 1872 original storm indows. John said that the large gold leaf letters “Elbert’s Electronics” on the front window, painted by Bob Edwards in 72 took two ounces of gold at $36.00 per ounce.

John’s collection of antique radios, televisions, telephones, telephone insulators, and the 1896 Swanbeck oak shelf mpliment his business today. His televisions, scanners, radios, computers, and accessories are the latest that money can y.

According to John, the biggest change he has seen while in business has been in TV's. Today you can buy the best TV for what the cheapest was in 1971.

The glass mirrors and partial mural is reminiscent of the confectionery days. The mural as painted by Joe Taylor (an artist, gunsmith, and dogcatcher) for the late Larry Dry, is the same as when Larry occupied the building.

Upon entering the building, one is reminded of yesteryear. An antique light hangs over the show window. The light dates back to when electricity was first used in St. Peter in the late 1800s. The black and red asbestos square battleship linoleum floor covering shows little wear after a half century of use. The boiler that comfortably heats the building is a 1920 hot water vintage model. John takes pride in caring for the beautiful apple tree that the Retail Council planted in front of his building ten years ago.

Never at a loss for words, John is confident that downtown St. Peter will bloom, flourish, and grow along with the apple tree.

This article appeared in the April 7, 1983 St. Peter Herald.

Love Of Music Turns To Business

Hermel's Music Store-Radio Shack

Cliff and Katie Hermel's Music Store-Radio Shack at 213 South Minnesota Avenue in beautiful downtown St. Peter started as a hobby and is today one of St. Peter's most thriving businesses.

The building, purchased from Erwin Foss in 1978, was the overalls factory before moving to the Johnson building at the corner of Broadway and Minnesota Avenue. Many people remember when Joel Hanson and later Willis Hoyt conducted a funeral parlor in the building prior to the Foss Red and White Store.

Music comes to Katie and Cliff naturally. Katie's own grandfather, Alfred Danielson, owned seven music stores in the area. The St. Peter store was managed by Katie's father, S. A. (Sam) Danielson, and was located in a wooden frame building where the Stensbys have their dry cleaning shop. Some of the merchandise included in their store were Bjur pianos and the sewing machines, for they had the franchise.

Cliff was reared on a farm in the Nicollet area in the shadow of Adolph Hermel's Swan Lake Pavilion. Who's Who of featured bands were: Lawrence Welk, Wayne King, Rose Bud Kids, Les Brown, and Whoopee John. Lawrence Welk, a native of the Peace Garden State, was booked out of radio station WNAX in Yankton, South Dakota, where he was sponsored by Hawaiian Fruit Gum. Lawrence was always grateful to the Hermels, for twice he went broke and the Hermels helped him out with bookings. Cliff remembers when Lois Best, wife of the first trumpeter Jules Herman, was Welk's first "Champagne Lady".

Old timers from the Traverse area will remember when Whoopee John Wilfahrt, out of New Ulm, would play in the early 1930s for the Willow Lawn Creamery, District No. 3 School, and the Traverse Sewing Circle picnics on three consecutive Sundays in Hergerts' pasture-woods.

During the depression years, the dance business faltered to the point where, one Sunday, the Hermel relations tore the dance pavilion down and transported the lumber to 716 North Minnesota Avenue where Adolph Hermel built a house. It was in the basement of this house that in 1935, Adolph started the candy and tobacco business.

In 1969, Cliff sold his candy and tobacco interest to brother Howard, leaving himself and Katie to devote their full time to the Gibbon Ballroom, which they had acquired in 1961.

The Hermels made Gibbon the "Concertina Capital" of the world with no less than 72 bands playing 12 hours a day for four days during the "Polka Days" festival. People came from Alaska and Hawaii in addition to the continental states to be rt of the celebration. The "Little Fishermen" of Corpus Christi, Texas, had the honor of being the band that had traveled e greatest distance. The entire 14-acre complex, consisting of the ballroom, tent area, and parking lot was used. Believe it not, more maple flooring was used for the event than any place else in America.

The ballroom was so large that three separate wedding dances (separated by firewalls) could be held simultaneously.

The worst night Cliff recalls was when Les Brown's band played. People just could not dance to the so-called ogressive jazz music and requested refunds.

The Hermels, with their love for music and youth, owned, operated, and sponsored the Black Knights (8-13 year-olds) d the Crusaders (14-21 year-olds) for about eleven years. Cliff was President of the Govenaires for eleven years and recalls at the combined Corps made 33 appearances yearly.

The corps won many American Legion, V. F. W., and state drum and bugle corps competitions. Cliff said that when the etnam War broke out, the Black Knights and Crusaders disbanded leaving the Govenaires, who are still going strong.

The music business for the Hermels has grown with the King Midas touch, with over 7,500 instruments and accessories stock in the store. The most expensive instrument is the $2,000.00 concertina, while one of the cheapest is a Jaw Harp ew's Harp.) Cliff's trophies of large game when he started hunting 44 years ago, line the upper shelves around the inside the store.

In 1931, Cliff played drums for the John Fritsche band out of New Ulm. Earl Erickson, music teacher at St. Peter High hool from 1939 to 1972, had Cliff as a student in the Nicollet High School Band in the early thirties. Cliff fulfilled a yhood dream of having his own band for a quarter of a century after playing with 15 bands.

The computer business has grown by leaps and bounds recently. Cliff says that it staggers one's mind to think that in the ture the computer business will be larger than the television and auto businesses combined. The Hermels' son Brad will in the firm shortly and will be conducting computer seminars in the upstairs quarters.

The past year Hermels won a trip from Radio Shack to Maui, Hawaii for their 25% increase in business. Not bad for a usiness that started for a hobby!

airy Farming With The Annexstads

The Annexstad dairy farm is located on Highway 22, 8 miles northwest of the St. Peter High School door (lower level) d two miles east of the lutefisk capital of the world, Norseland. Carl's wife, Lois, should know the distance as she has auffeured the children many times after music, Future Farmers of America, athletic games, and numerous other school actices and events.

Mike, who was a member of the St. Peter High School baseball team that finished third in the Minnesota High School ournament, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in animal science.

Eric, a member of the St. Peter High School 1976 Class A football champions, will follow his brother's footsteps this mmer and graduate with the same degree.

Heidi, an English major at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, will spend her junior year studying at the University of ottingham near London, England. Heidi enjoys working during her vacations at Frani's Hallmark in downtown St. Peter.

Kirsten, a member of the various high school bands and orchestras, will complete her senior year at St. Peter after ending a month this summer as a 4-H exchange student in Norway.

The Annexstads have hosted various tours that include the Chamber of Commerce Farm Tour, college students, and the arvestore Tour when 500 people came in three buses and several cars to visit the dairy operation.

Corn and hay are grown on the 280-acre dairy farm to feed the 55 Holstein cows, 40 heifers, 30 steers, and 45 yearling calves. Facilities for the animals include a barn that costs about $2,000.00 per cow, a 20-foot by 70-foot Harvestore 350 ton silo (40% haylage moisture) 6,500 bushel corn silo (22% moisture) and a 400,000 gallon slurrystore for the animal waste.

The liquid manure is injected onto the fields via honey wagons. The only commercial fertilizer purchased is for the far-away fields. Mike's figures reveal that the average Holstein eats 12 to 14 tons of hay per year and drinks 40 to 70 gallons of water per day to produce a rolling herd average of 17,400 pounds of milk at a 3.6 test butterfat per year. It is interesting to note that information from the University of Minnesota Extension Service shows that milk contains 87% water, 4.5 % lactose, 3.25% butterfat, 3.5 % proteins, and .75% minerals. These figures are averages or minimum state requirements.

Lois said that this amounts to $6.00 for a feed cost to produce 100 pounds of milk for which they receive $12.95 per cwt. The federal government takes 50 cents per cwt.; to attempt to cut down the surplus created mainly by the 2,000 cowherds in California.

The milk is stored in a 1,000 gallon bulk tank and is picked up every other day by Don Chambers. It is then transported to Mark Davis' Le Sueur Creamery and the milk is either shipped to the Twin Cities Milk Shed for bottling or manufactured into cheeses at Le Sueur.

In one year, the Annexstads spend approximately $2,400.00 for hauling, $4,500.00 for the Kind Veterinary services, $2,500.00 to Midwest Breeders (Herb Monke), $1,100.00 to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and $3,400.00 to Frost Benco Electric Company for electricity.

Mike, Carl, and Lois each have their own responsibilities in the operation. Mike is in charge of the herd's health, nutrition, production and breeding. Father Carl handles the maintenance and operations, while Lois tends to the calves until they are moved from the dome calf huts to the heifer lot. Lois said that for some unknown reason, cows seem to have their calves in the wee hours of the morning, which requires constant attention.

Ironically, Carl and Lois (Anthony) grew up in the same neighborhood. They attended the same school, are both lifetime members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and have belonged to the Norseland 4-H Club where they have been adult leaders when their children were members.

Carl said the greatest change in the dairy industry in the past 30 years has been the doubling of milk production per cow.

Lois firmly believes the public must be educated on the taste and nutritional value of nature's most perfect food. June, being Dairy Month, she believes is the proper time to start.

S & K Trucks Serve Three States

In the early years of St. Peter, freight was brought into the area via steamboat and oxcart. Church bells and stained glass windows adorning some of the older churches in the St. Peter area are evidence of that early means of transportation.

Today, many motorized trucks pass through St. Peter every day hauling freight coast to coast.

In 1948, William and wife Lillian Smith left the freight business in Litchfield to take over Art and Bill Johnson's truck lines in St. Peter. The Smiths serviced their customers by hauling groceries, plumbing supplies, hardware, drugs, liquor, and sundry items. At that time, the Smiths owned three trucks. Lillian, a partner in the business, worked side by side with Bill doing a man's work. Daughter Nancy and son, Steve, kept the family tradition going by working summers and weekends on the trucks.

In 1968, the Smiths were granted a carrier permit and signed contracts with ten liquor wholesalers in Minnesota. Choosing wholesalers, rather than retailers, proved to be a sound decision as it laid the foundation for the business down the road.

Harvey Kranz, a driver for the Smiths, added his name to the permit along with Lillian, and thus S & K Truck Lines iginated.

Their semi-trailer was no longer needed in the business, so Bill hired out as owner-operator to Shari Candies in ankato, while Lillian operated S & K lines.

In 1965 Jim Luker, Nancy's husband, left the Waterville area to drive for the firm. When Bill came back into the business 1962, he purchased Kranz's interest. The same year, Jim and Nancy joined the business and used their car as collateral to urchase a truck. Jim expanded the business by opening new delivery accounts in Waseca, Owatonna, and towns west of ankato.

Smith's son Steve, after being discharged from the military, leased part of the S & K operation until 1971 when he sold s interest to the Lukers. In 1976, Bill retired from trucking after 44 years on the road. Bill sold his interest to Jim and ancy, who formed a partnership under S & K Lines.

Today, the firm has three trucks doing business west to the South Dakota border, south to the Iowa border, and east as r as Waseca, serving 150 valued customers.

Jim and Nancy presently have four contracts with liquor wholesalers, one contract with A. J. Busch wholesale groceries Mankato and five open contracts.

The Lukers are St. Peter-minded. In Jim's years of trucking, he has purchased 14 Ford trucks from H. B. Seitzer and ompany.

In 1982, Jim traveled 137,000 miles using 28,639 gallons of gasoline (purchased in St. Peter). The Smiths and Lukers ave had but one major accident in 47 years of trucking. A new farm tractor 15 minutes out of the dealership yard hit and rced Jim's two-day-old truck into a ditch.

The Lukers operate out of their home. They have five children. David works as a driver for the firm, Barb works as ceptionist at Dr. Mark Diede's office, Susan works at A. D. C. Products in Le Sueur, Mark is serving in the Navy, and Mike in high school.

Passersby can see a sign Jim painted on his truck as a tribute: "I picked a Rose." The Lukers selected an appropriate ogan that is visible on all their trucks: "Save a Day-Ship S & K".

his appeared in the July 7, 1983 issue of the St. Peter Herald.

randt's Used Auto Parts

In 1952, George Riebel and Wilbert Brandt (both now deceased) purchased four acres of land from Septer Johnson and arted the Kasota Wrecking Yard, which is now known as Brandt's Used Auto Parts.

The operation is located on what is known as the Rabbit Road, east of the Minnesota River across from the Holiday ouse and but four rods from the Northwestern railroad tracks.

The last steamboat, Henrietta, passed by the Brandts' land in 1891 on its way to Mankato. Who would believe then that randt's yard would be filled with remnants from another means of transportation, the automobile?

Wilbert Brandt passed away suddenly in 1972 leaving his wife Catherine, sons Kevin and Dale, and son-in-law Gordon ale to run the family business.

Catherine, the firm's bookkeeper, occasionally accommodates husband Carl Tietz, in picking up cars and iron via a atbed truck. The company depends mostly on garage owners and people to notify them as to their wares.

After the cars are stripped for parts, they are crushed with old appliances, tin, bottle washers, and steam engines with the remains hauled to North Star Steel or Kaplans in the Twin Cities for the best price.

The firm once employed six people, but due to Worker's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and other high costs, they are down to a family operation plus one part-time employee.

The past 30 years have seen the Brandts change from a cold cut and maul (sledge hammer) operation to use of a car crusher (called a nutcracker) and torches. With the nutcracker, they can crush other metals otherwise unacceptable.

The day I arrived on the scene, the temperature was hovering around the 100-degree mark. However, the heat didn't affect Kevin and Dale as they were cutting with a blowtorch.

Open Monday through Saturday, the Brandts haul between 50,000 and 70,000 tons of scrap from the yard each year.

The Brandt yards are visited by nearby vocational schools, area firemen, and ambulance crews to learn the operation firsthand. Members of the St. Peter Rotary Club, following their noon luncheon meeting, watched the demonstration of the Hurst Tool opening up a car in the Brandts' yard. The Ambulance Service refers to this Hurst Tool as the "Jaws of Life" because it can open a car to rescue a trapped motorist. The Rotarians had a special interest, as they were the principal contributors of the tool for the St. Peter Area Ambulance Service shortly after the Lions contributed heavily towards the Cadillac Ambulance.

The Brandts are not averse to helping people in distress on Sundays or holidays. A visiting doctor from Germany, a couple from Alaska, hippies from New York (worse off than the clunk they drove), and people from most states have found auto parts at Brandt's.

The building adjacent to the house has a historic background for it was once one of eight government barracks built for the returning GIs following World War II. The building stood on the West Side of Veterans Field, east of Fifth Street. The barracks was later moved to Front Street where it served as police headquarters until City Hall was built in 1965.

While vacationing in Brownsville, Texas, one winter, Catherine learned the art of making baskets from beads. She sells the baskets for wedding presents and gifts. This hobby is quite a contrast to the car-wrecking business.

Catherine said that, although the used cars have millions of miles behind them, one used part has sent many a motorist merrily on his way.

Dan's Hardware Hank ✍

Dan and Dorothy Schlenker, natives of Wishek, North Dakota, purchased the hardware business at 401 South Minnesota Avenue from Bob and Diana Reid five years ago.

Dan, a jack-of-all-trades, attributes his mechanical ability to having worked in his father's Ford garage in Wishek and managing a 40-unit housing complex in Roseville, Minnesota. Dorothy apprenticed in her hometown working for her dad in his real estate and insurance business.

In 1962, Dorothy graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead and entered the teaching field for five years. She taught in Tower City, Wishek, and Ellendale, North Dakota, and also at Moorhead, Minnesota.

The Schlenkers contemplated the move for three years before casting their lot with St. Peter and becoming one of Hardware Hank's 600 dealer-owned stores located throughout eleven states. The United Hardware Distribution Company is the parent company. Its headquarters, located on a 9 acre tract in Minneapolis, houses 43,668 items available to its members Dan says that they have more than 12,000 items in stock in their St. Peter store and the rest is available by just picking up the phone. W. R. Golberg, whom I have known for 30 years, is a worthy and well-qualified president of United Hardware Distribution Company.

July 1, 1983 was a red-letter day in the lives of the Schlenkers. On that day they purchased the Independent Order of e Odd Fellows building which they had rented for five years. The Ole Fredricksen Construction Company built the uilding, which is one of St. Peter's finest, in 1904 at a cost of $15,000.00.

Until recently, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs (wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of the Odd Fellows) met on the pacious second floor of the building. The Odd Fellows, chartered in 1859, is the oldest and was the largest fraternal order St. Peter. They presently meet in the Masonic Temple. (The Masons are returning a favor, as they rented the Odd Fellows uilding in 1865 at a sum of $1.50 per meeting.)

The historic Schlenker building housed the U. S. Post Office from 1904 through 1918. According to the St. Peter Herald iamond Jubilee issue, the Gamble Store and the R. W. Maltby Plumbing Shop both occupied the first floor.

The Minnesota Valley Natural Gas Company (now Minnegasco) founded and headquartered in St. Peter in 1934, rented e first floor until moving into the new Dr. M. E. Lenander building in 1941.

Ben Fallenstein and the late Ernie Marschal operated Ben & Ernie's Bar or watering hole on the premises in the late 930's and early 1940's. Later, the Red Owl Store leased the downstairs followed by the Hinnenthal and Stindt Hardware, the redecessor to the Reids.

The Schlenkers are non-committal about the growth of business in the past five years. However, one can readily see the aily business traffic.

Dan and Dorothy are assisted part-time in the store by their children, David and Debra, and Pat Schmidt. Recently, uring their anniversary celebration, David and Debra dressed in unique ten-foot animated inflated Hardware Hank ostumes, which were very visible on the streets and also on the grounds of the Nicollet County Fair. The Schlenkers are uick to emphasize that Mary Ann Vogel and Jim Hill are also most valued employees.

Dan says, without the least equivocation, they made the right decision when locating in St. Peter.

Bowling In St. Peter-From 1914 To The Present

Peterson Recreation

The Egyptians first practiced bowling, one of oldest individual sports America's and forms of recreation, 5,000 years ago. t. Peter's oldest known bowling alley-over 100 years ago was located in the J. H. Clark building, now owned by attorney ames Brandt.

In 1914, Otto G. Peterson purchased the Volk Furniture building at 319 South Minnesota Avenue, to open a pool hall nd two bowling lanes. O. G. immediately remodeled the building so that he could accommodate ten pool and billiard ables, a soft drink fountain, a pipe and tobacco case, and a sundry of other items stocked by pool halls and bowling alleys.

In 1937, O. G. sold the business to sons Ray and Vernon, who installed two more alleys and semi-pin setters. Augie elson handled the pin setting chores and the late Donnie Haney, St. Peter's number one bowling fan, was the official corer.

Prior to World War II, alleys five and six were added and in 1946 a new front was put on. The name was changed at this me to Peterson's Recreation.

Upon the passing of Vern in 1953, wife Cecil, along with Ray and Rosie, continued to operate the business until 1957 hen Ray accepted a position with the Minnesota Valley Gas Company (Minnegasco), selling his interest to Bob Stueven.

Bob and Cecil improved the facilities by erecting a new building for the alleys and for the newly installed automatic pinetter. In 1962, a change in ownership took place when Cecil's son, Joe, and wife Sherry went to work for Jake and Lorraine ampbell at the A & W Drive Inn.

Chances of bowling a perfect 300 game are 650 out of a million. St. Peter has had two perfect games in league competition and three in open bowling. Maurice Burg rolled a 300 game in 1954 and still holds the three-game all-time high with a score of 727. Bob Frey duplicated the feat in 1965 and Roy Haney, a St. Peterite, rolled a perfect game while bowling in Mankato for C & N Sales. All received a diamond ring from the American Bowling Congress for their accomplishments.

Records reveal that Francis “Mutzi” Veith, H. C. Krohn, and Bill Stotz rolled a 300 game in open bowling. When “Mutzie” rolled 300, Roy Warning hit a 299. The late Don Menk was given the 10 pin he missed when rolling a 299.

Vari Papa, billed the world’s greatest trick shot artist, put on an exhibition in St. Peter with Roy Haney as the opponent.

Adolph Burmeister at age 92, was the oldest person in St. Peter to bowl in league competition ending the season with a 137 average. Kris Blaschko, LeRoy’s son, at age 15, is probably the youngest bowler in St. Peter league competition.

In years past, two leagues bowled at Peterson’s-the City and the Merchants. Today, 60 teams bowl in eight leagues. The residents from the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center use the facilities twice a week.

Noticeably absent when making my call was the cast iron cuspidors that the tobacco chewers missed more often than they hit.

Sioux Trail Lanes

In 1961, Harold and Laurie Martin, the developers of Gardner’s Court, sold a parcel of land to Edwin A. Schad for the erection of a 75-foot by 150-foot building. Bob Hartman operated the 12 alleys for one year before selling to Bob Erickson and Lloyd Duoos.

In 1977, Bob became sole owner when Lloyd accepted a position with Independent School District 508 as a custodian. On the passing of Bob in 1982, son Mike and his wife, Barb, became proprietors.

Mike has one full-time employee, Gary Campbell, and six to ten part-time employees (depending on the season.) They work on the alleys and ready the establishment daily for the day’s business. According to the American Bowling Congress, alleys may not vary over a 40/1000 of an inch in order to be sanctioned.

Oscar Johnson, a grand patriarch of bowling, worked at Sioux Trail for fifteen years before retiring as a nightly spectator.

Today, many bowlers own their own shoes, balls, and other bowling equipment. In yesteryear, bowlers would arrive early to claim their favorite house ball prior to the matches. While most shoes are universal, many bowlers today wear a leather shoe to slide and a rubber one to stop before reaching the foul line.

A majority of the bowlers today use a three-finger ball, not a two-finger ball like the ones used by the late Wilton Mans and Gordy Harmeyer. Mike recently drilled a five-finger ball made to specifications.

Since 1961, the highest game ever rolled at Sioux Trail was a 299 by Jim Schoeb. High women’s scores in recent years, according to the records, were Shirley Jacobsen with 269, Ceil Elwood with 267, and Margo Brown with 266.

Sioux Trail claims 80 to 100 teams, a senior citizens league, a pro shop for drilling and plugging balls, a game room, lunch counter and lounge. Mike also handles trophies, shirts and bowling accessories,

Memories take me back to the 1958 Centennial year when the Wettergren Dairy sponsored a junior team composed of high school students Tom Bolstad, Larry Skramstad, Leland Mead (now a priest), Art Cavara and Rich Frey. The team was invited to bowl Austin’s best high schoolers at Gus Young’s Bowl and to enjoy Evelyn’s hospitality. Tom rolled a 570 series for the St. Peter team and they won all three games.

Incidentally, Tom had the highest average in St. Peter for the 1982-83 season. Ceil Elwood, St. Peter’s yearly top woman bowler recently retired with a final average of 197. The bowling establishments in St. Peter have hosted the 1965 State V. F. W. Tournament and the Third District American Legion Tournament twice besides other numerous tourneys. They have put in a bid for the 1985 State V. F. W. Tournament. The bowling establishments have thus enriched the coffers of a multitude of St. Peter businesses.

arpentry And Construction Traditions Continue

attersall Builders (Geiger Construction)

Tattersall Builders was founded by Tom and Doris George in 1976. The Georges sold the business to LeRoy and Jean eiger in 1982 and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to start a construction firm. The Geigers spent 12 years on a sser scale in the construction business in New Prague.

Jean said that they are proud of the smaller homes built through the aid of the Farmers' Home Administration and the rger homes financed by the Minnesota Housing Agency or local financial institutions.

The Geigers offer two types of home: the super-insulated, conventionally designed home or the custom designed, assive solar home. One of the features of the Geiger homes is the all-weather, wooden foundation basement.

A special project for 1983 is the beautiful, spacious family home built for Bob and Cathy Nyman. Working together with e talented Nymans, they have produced a very charming residence.

The Geiger children are pursuing their education. Son Duane, an accounting student at Mankato State University, is orking part-time for the Geigers while completing his degree. Daughter Lorie is working for Scott County while completing er degree in law enforcement at St. Thomas in St. Paul. Joe, the youngest, is a senior at New Prague High School.

Non-family employees include Maurin and Steve Jacks, Victor and Jeff Weiers, and Dick Rustman.

Vendroth Construction and Repair

Jim Wendroth, a native of Eden Prairie, was a jack-of-all-trades before settling in St. Peter. Jim was owner and operator f an open-air fruit stand, a machinist, and he spent five years with the Minneapolis, Northfield, and Southern railroad as a arpenter on the bridge crew.

In 1967 he moved to St. Peter, where he owned and operated the Pantry Fruit and Grocery Store in the historic Kohl uilding at Broadway and Third Streets. Jim was a relief announcer for KRBI Radio during his spare time, working eekends, filling in for vacationing staff, and announcing high school basketball tournaments.

In 1976 Jim rented his store space to the Kay MacKenzie and Ray and Dorothy Olson accounting firm. He then started Vendroth Construction.

The biggest farm building Jim has ever built was a machinery and livestock structure for Roger Fixen in Lake Prairie. Jim as built homes as a contractor or sub-contractor in Daun's Addition, Riverview Heights, and the Standard Addition, to name few. Recently, he built a new home for Tom and Doreen Headlee and was subcontractor for Norm Kollman in the building f two five-level homes in the Twin Cities area.

Jim, a former council member and planning commission member for St. Peter, presently serves in the St. Peter area mbulance crew where he was a charter member.

lsson Construction & Wallpaper

Steve and Judy Olsson, Le Sueur natives, were partners in the V & O (Vogel & Olsson) Construction firm, founded in 975. Howard Vogel sold his interest to the Olssons when he took over the family farm.

Although Steve works mostly as a mason doing basements, he has built the Church of the Nazarene in Mankato and the . Peter Picnic Shelter in Riverside Park. He has remodeled the Milk House-C. T. Liquor building after the owners acquired it om 7-Eleven Enterprises. The Olssons' most recent job has been the remodeling of Hawkins Jewelry Store.

Judy, who is the bookkeeper, also operates a wallpaper business in the store located at 209 West Nassau. She started the usiness in her home in 1976. Her experience includes having hung paper for the Baldwin Studio in Le Sueur. Judy handles all and floor covering, kitchen and bath cabinets, and other closely related items.

The Olssons are assisted by their son Dave in the summer and by Howard Vogel when he is not busy on the farm.

Carpentry And Construction Date Back To 1853--
St. Peter Carpenters And Construction Companies

Carpentry in St. Peter goes back to 1853 when Captain William Dodd built a portion of the house that Earl Hanson lives in at the corner of Front and Chatham.

Adam Kegel was the first carpenter in St. Peter in 1854. Some of the early carpenters I remember include Bill Boethin, Oscar and Gilbert Gilbertson, Ole Overn, Steve Spiess, Sr. and Jr., Ole Fredricksen and son Harding, Pat Monahan, Sr., Ed and Armond Vernon, and the Ehler brothers.

Volk Building, Inc.

Volk Building, Inc. dates back four generations and 90 years. George Volk, of the first generation known to us, had a millwork company in Germany, which he left to his oldest son, according to tradition. Fred, second generation, not being the oldest, came to Nicollet in approximately 1893 at the age of 19, to build many homes and barns in the Nicollet County area. He had the distinction of working on the beautiful St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye.

Herb, the third generation, apprenticed under his father, Fred, at the age of 14 and helped build the Nicollet High School auditorium in 1938.

The first house that Herb built in St. Peter was for Bud Wettergren in 1949 at the corner of Front and Walnut, while his first commercial job was the St. Peter Motel in 1957. The Volks, Herb and sons Rodney and Lyle (Punky), incorporated the business in 1969. Rodney, a mechanical engineer, left the firm in 1974 and is employed as a design engineer for Thermo-King in Minneapolis.

Lyle, once a student at Dunwoody Institute and a graduate of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology in 1968, remembers working for his father at the age of 11 on Pete Balle's house in 1951.

The large commercial buildings the Volks have built or remodeled in recent years include the Lampert and Standard Lumber Companies, Shoreland Country Club, the American Legion, the V.F.W. Club (old Armory), the Dranttel Sales building, and recently the addition to the First National Bank.

Reinhard Volk, Lyle's uncle, worked for the firm for approximately 25 years and was mainly a cabinetmaker. Today Steve Lesmeister handles that job.

Lyle says the biggest change in housing since 1979 has been the building of super-insulated homes. Their first such home, with 2700 square feet of living area, had a heat and water cost of $270.00 in 1980. This can be compared with a passive solar home with a fireplace that had an energy cost of $28.00 in 1981. Lyle is a member of the William R. Witty American Legion Post 37, the Shoreland Country Club, and is on the board of directors at the Nicollet County V.F.W. Post 1220.

Kollman Construction

Norman, a Mankato area native, has been in the carpentry business all of his life. He worked for Tate's Construction as a carpenter from 1969 through 1980, building approximately 100 houses in the St. Peter area.

In 1980, Norm went into business for himself doing commercial and residential buildings. He has built or remodeled many commercial buildings that include Sunnyside Florist, St. Peter Savings and Loan, Schoop's Saloon, Brandt's Law Office, the historic Embassy Bar building that he and wife Jan recently purchased in 1983, and Dan's Hardware.

Norm and Jan purchased 36 lots from Peachy and Dorothy Egli that include the old Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church built in 1853, two years after the signing of the treaty. The property is now known as Kollman's Addition.

The family business, besides Norm, includes wife Jan as bookkeeper, and daughters Laurie and Lisa, high school students who work in the summers. Paul Olmanson is presently a full-time employee who worked several summers before completing his courses at the University.

rani's Hallmark And Country Garden

rani's Hallmark

Frani Anderson's gift shop at 308 South Minnesota Avenue is located in the heart of the business district in the place nce known as the Schleuder Building.

The Schleuders, one of St. Peter's pioneer families, founded a jewelry store on the 300 block in the year 1863. Having ented for over 20 years, the Schleuders built the historic building now owned by Frani, in 1884.

Harold F. Johnson (jeweler) from Mankato, purchased the Schleuder jewelry and watch-repair business in 1935 with Max chleuder retaining the gift shop. Harold moved his business in 1937 to the north portion of what is now known as the ountry Garden building.

Leon and Elsie Bunde, St. Peter's oldest retailers still in business (53 years), sold their Red & White Grocery store to Erv oss and son Gordon in 1950 and purchased the Schleuder Gift Shop upon Max's death.

John Lindquist occupied the building for over a decade with John's Bakery when Bunde moved into the Masonic uilding in 1963.

In 1975, Julia Mae Strathern Hesselroth, a niece of Max, leased the building to Ken Odell and Barry Bowles, who pened a Hallmark Card Shop.

Frani Anderson, who is from St. Louis Park, purchased Ken and Barry's business in 1981 and at the same time became ne owner of the building.

St. Peter was no stranger to Frani and her husband Mark, as they are both graduates of Gustavus Adolphus College. lark is presently the Director of Admissions at Gustavus.

Frani, an art major at Gustavus Adolphus, came to St. Peter from Southwest Minneapolis, where she was a partner in 3 ooms UP, an art consignment shop. Her past experience includes interior design at Daytons and retail and advertising ositions at Minnesota Paints.

Frani, in addition to her Hallmark line, has over 70 local and regional artists and crafts people displaying their work in er store.

Frani's goal is that all her gifts be handcrafted. With two children, Joey and Lindsey, she is involved in school, scouting, nd church activities.

Presently, Frani is vice-chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce Retail Council and is on the Promotions Committee.

Sharon Wilkinson, Chris Dierks, and Linda Faust assist Frani in the operation of her business. She credits these ladies as eing assets to her business.

ountry Garden

Jerry and Diane Lunderberg, owners of the St. Peter Greenhouse, opened their downtown store, known as the Country arden, on November 1, 1975. Nancy Lindquist, now with Liljander's State Farm Insurance was the first manager.

The building, one of St. Peter's oldest, was once owned by the late Charles Brinker (Chuck's father) who operated the t. Peter Hatchery in the quarters half a century ago.

Attorney Norman C. Gault, purchased the building in 1937 and leased the north half to Harold Johnson (jeweler) and he south portion to the late Paul Hartman, who operated a shoe repair and harness shop in the building.

Later, Norman moved his law offices into the building and took W. M. Gustafson as a partner.
pon Norman's death, the building was sold to Hilding (Skoning) Nelson, who sold it to Jerry and Diane Lunderberg.

Country Garden's inventory includes green plants, silk plants, wicker items, centerpieces, wall arrangements, ornaments, pottery, stuffed animals, music boxes, and chimes. At the rear of the store, one finds flowers, shrubs, and trees that lend to a charming landscape.

Vinnie Steinke has been the manager since 1979. Shari Bense, Danielle Lunderberg, and Beth Elskamp are other employees in the Country Garden operation.

Sign Painters

The first renowned sign painter in the St. Peter area was Albert Woolson, the last "Yankee" Civil War soldier, who met his death at the age of 109.

Woolson painted and lettered the historical St. Peter Cornet Band Wagon over a century ago. I remember riding in the 1958 Centennial parade with the Nicollet County Historical Society board members in the twelve-seated wagon.

Roy S. Johnson, Bill "Bloomer" Hanson, A. C. "Pinky" Kubiak (one-time manager of the State Theater), "Sonny" Decko, Les Barker, and James (Rembrandt) Weisgerber, were local sign painters who left their marks in the St. Peter area.

Robert L. Edwards, whose shop is located at 1310 North Minnesota Avenue, is the dean of sign painters from Edina to Albert Lea.

Bob's travels have taken him from his hometown of St. Peter to England, where he rode his motorcycle 14,750 miles while serving in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean conflict from 1951 to 1954.

Bob painted for the U. S. Air Force sign shop while in the military and moonlighted by painting for Mr. Pick, owner of Fish 'n Chips.

Bob, a 1949 graduate of St. Peter High School, pursued his schooling upon his return from the service by attending the School of Associated Arts (a commercial art school) in St. Paul for three years.

Bob's boyhood dream came true when he was employed as a commercial artist for Sports Wholesale Co. in Le Center doing artwork on their national catalogue. Bob moved to the Twin Cities where he was employed as a commercial artist for Reynolds Geyer Agency of Design in St. Paul and for a Minnesota wholesaler in Minneapolis before returning from whence he came in 1961 to do commercial artwork with Sonny Decko at KEYC-TV. In 1962, he went into business for himself.

Bob's collection of photos of signs he has painted is like a "Who's Who" in the business world.

The largest sign Bob has painted was "Welcome to Le Center-Larson Industries". The main line had six-foot, six-inch letters while the second line had three-foot, three-inch letters. The sign was one hundred forty feet long. Winco of Minnesota now owns the building. The letters Winco are twelve feet high and forty-eight feet long, while "of Minnesota" is four feet high and forty-nine feet long.

The smallest sign Bob made was numbers on a gauge on Charles Schleeve's antique, re-built Minneapolis Moline tractor that was used for transportation and farming.

Bob painted a sign for Coop Feed Mill on old Highway Number Five near Mankato that was one hundred thirty-four feet from the ground.

He has painted signs for nearly every business in St. Peter at one time or another. You can see his work on fire trucks, city trucks, ambulances, school signs, supper clubs, body shops, Gustavus Adolphus College, Lions' Club signs, construction firms, shuffleboards, snowmobiles, Traverse Town Hall, Compart's Boar Operation near Nicollet, churches, E. A. Swenson & Sons in Norseland, beer and candy trucks, milk trucks, sports centers, and an eight-foot square portable sign for the Riverblenders. He painted a portrait sign of "Ed", the hog that appeared on the Johnny Carson show, painted a sign that was ounted on a trailer for politicians Carol Johnson and Warren Spannaus, and made a five by two-foot canvas for Gerry rekke when he ran for the U. S. Senate. Bob painted the name "Gary Sargent", who is on the North Stars Hockey team, on n Alumnacraft boat, the model he endorsed.

The St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce sign, "Welcome to St. Peter-Home of Champions", was of great satisfaction to ob as he watched most of the athletes on those championship teams grow up.
special paint Bob uses comes from a supply house out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and also from St. Paul. Paint usually kes two hours before touching and eight hours to dry with silver and black being the fastest drying and maroon the owest, usually taking up to 48 hours.

Bob, without the least equivocation, believes if he lives as long as Woolson, he will have painted more signs than any ther living person around.

his appeared in the January 12, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

t. Peter Post Office: Part 1

The expression "the mail must go through" is a common one, uttered by ancient rulers in 3,000 B. C. The first messages ere relayed by trained runners by the word of mouth to ear.

Caesar Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, was known to have built good roads to increase the speed and comfort of is runners when carrying messages.

The native Americans who communicated through the use of smoke signals sent the first messages in the United States.

Written mail was delivered by Pony Express, stagecoach, steamboats, railroads, trucks, and now airplanes.

Benjamin Franklin, noted statesman and inventor, had the distinction of being appointed the first Postmaster General by ne Continental Congress in 1775.

In the year 1789, President George Washington named Samuel Osgood as the first Postmaster General under the U. S. onstitution.

St. Peter's postal service began in 1856. George Heslip was the postmaster. According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond ibilee Edition, the Post Office was located in the Heslip building, later known as the Harkin-Lamberton residence on innesota Avenue and Walnut Street. Doctors Thompson, Nelson, Larson, Dobbs, and Dobie built a medical arts building on ne property.

From 1861 to 1866, the Post Office was in the Lamberton building (old Armory) now the Veterans of Foreign War uarters. Lamberton, incidentally, was the descendant of Captain William Dodd, the founder of St. Peter. Over the years, the ocation of the Post Office has changed many times-from 1866-1869 in the Governor Five building; from 1869-1872 in the B. Paul building, now Jerandee's Restaurant; from 1872-1889 in the J. H. Snyder building (the old, old First National Bank in ne middle of the 200 block east); from 1889-1904 in the Hawkins side of the Nicollet County Bank; and from 1904-1918 in ne Odd Fellows building, now owned and occupied by Dan and Dorothy Schlenker, Dan's Hardware Hank.

In 1913, the U. S. Congress, through the efforts of Congressman C. R. Davis, appropriated land and the building of a ew post office. Fourteen bids were submitted with J. M. Peterson's site on the corner of Third and Nassau Streets being elected at $3,500.00.

The present building was completed November 23, 1917 and turned over to the Department of the U. S. Treasury. The uilding was not occupied by the postal system until December 1, 1918.

The postmasters and their terms of service since 1856 include George Heslip, 1856-59; J. J. Green, 1859-1861; J. K. oore (former editor of the St. Peter Tribune) 1861-66; Martin Williams, 1866-69; J. K. Moore (again), 1869-85; James

Delaney, 1885-89; W. G. Gresham (known as Judge Gresham), 1889-96; John McCabe, 1896-1901; D. Fichthron (one-time co-owner of the St. Peter Tribune), 1901-03; H. C. Miller (one-time owner-editor of the St. Peter Free Press and Consul to Equador), 1903-16. H. C. Miller was the father of Carl (Henrietta Weber's father) and Otto (Mayor) Miller who were assistant postmasters. H. J. Essler was Postmaster from 1916-24. He was co-owner of the St. Peter Herald and took Governor John A. Johnson as a partner before John's election as St. Peter's fifth governor to serve the state. L. J. (Bink) Gault served from 1924-28. He is Sam's father and was an attorney and personal secretary to Congressman C. R. Davis in Washington, D. C. L. J. succeeded his father Z. S. Gault as president of the Nicollet County Bank. A. M. (Matt) Anderson, who had a store on the corner where Don's Ace Hardware is now located, served as postmaster from 1928-33.

Charles Dempsey, who served from 1933-43, died in office and was succeeded by his wife, Eva, who was named acting postmistress from 1943-46. Also serving as postmasters were the well-known Albert Anfang from 1946-61; Sydney G. Johnson (acting), 1961-64; John McCarthy from 1964-73; Elmer H. Martens from 1973-75 (Elmer started in the Post Office in 1930); John J. Charlton (acting) from 1975-76; Ronald J. Dingelder, 1976-77 (officer in charge), and Clarence W. Monahan, 1977 to the present.

The rural free delivery routes began in 1902. Later, the postal systems in Norseland, Oshawa, and Traverse were incorporated in the St. Peter system.

St. Peter Post Office: Part 2

Postal Employees Are A Dedicated Group

Pioneer rural carriers included Jay Miner, C. O. Anderson, W. O. Layton, C. Abrahamson, Lyle Sawyer, G. F. Shogren, C. A. Mead, C. J. Robeck (Gordon's grandfather and Margo Brown's great grandfather), Louie Haney, Art Glass, Sr. H. E. Ryan, Bill Barnes, Ernie Schabert (46 years), and Otto Schiebel. I can remember as a youngster when Otto would go beyond the call of duty to personally deliver cards and packages at a time of happiness or sorrow, or would even bring out meat from Rube Seibert's Central Meat Market in St. Peter.

More recent retired rural carriers include K. Wayne Johnson, Wally Adolphson, Jim Miller, and Lowell Zimmerman. The four rural carriers today are Vernon Anderson, Ray Kienlen, Arlyce Bussman, and William Miller with Neal Johnson, Pat Kienlen, Mark Wettergren, and Roger Wilkinson as subs.

The city delivery routes were established in 1906. City carriers of yesteryear were Jack Lagerstrom, Barney Livingston, Lee Gierke, Cliff McClosky, Ray Sampson, Harold D. Johnson, Mahlon Olson, and most recently, Herb Martens and Byron (Lefty) Lutz.

City carriers today are Bernie Theiman, Jim Sullivan, Earl Fitch, Jim Holmstead, Dennis Strand, and Gerald Kurth. Sub city carriers are Thomas Hynes and Lawrence Mead.

Postal clerks included L. A. Nygard, Erwin Sorenson, Ivy Wilson, George Greenig, C. J. Hoberg, Sidney Essler, Ervin Robeck, Harry Williams, Rudy Robeck (46 years), Byron Briggs, Matt Schaus, Clair Gilbertson, Jerry Pitmon, Emery Dummer, and Paul Anderson. Major General William H. Nutter, and John Carlander, now chairman of the Board of the State Bank of Faribault, got their starts in the Post Office.

Present clerks are Roger Bohlen, Dennis Nygard, and Ronald Dingfelder (superintendent of operations), Ralph Jaeger, and Ray Vogel are the sub clerks.

Custodians I remember are C. A. "Chab" Young, Clifford (Bud) Olson, and Floyd Mouton. Dayton Hale is the present custodian and Mrs. Thelma Tell was a part-time custodian in years past.

In 1912 the postal system offered the postal savings depository with the parcel post being added in 1929.

The Post Office houses 349 private post office boxes. The two largest users of the postal system are Gustavus Adolphus College and the Minnesota School Boards Association.

Clarence W. Monahan, present postmaster, served in the U. S. Navy before attending Mankato State University. He was st commander of the William R. Witty American Legion Post 37, a member of the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department for years, and has been its treasurer for the past 15 years. He is a member of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce and lds a private pilot's license.

The St. Peter postal employees are a dedicated group that sees to it that the “MAIL MUST GO THROUGH”. Many people member “pistol packing” Mardel Kayser, who made sure the mail went through by carrying a 45 Colt revolver to protect e mail from the railroad depot to the post office in the good old days.

armes' Woodworking Studio

Randy Harmes Woodworking Studio, located at 314 South Third Street, is housed in what was known as the old City ll/Fire Station/Street Department/Police Department complex.

The building, now owned by Dennis Anderson (St. Peter Creamery Manager), dates back a century ago. The historic ilding is intact except for a new entrance and the bell that now rests in front of the present fire station (former Nicollet unty garage building.)

Randy, as a youngster and native of Irvington, Iowa (near Algona), gained valuable experience apprenticing in his her's machine shop. Since his early childhood, Randy remembers accompanying his parents to St. Peter to visit his andparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Foss and a host of other relatives in the area.

Randy, a carpenter, contractor, cabinetmaker, sculptor, and woodcarver for the past twenty years received a Bachelor's gree from Northern Iowa University after attending the University of Iowa. In 1982 Randy moved to St. Peter and attended ankato State University, receiving a Master's degree in art.

In December of 1982 Randy moved into the present quarters to pursue his skills in building early American and nnsylvania Dutch furniture. His six-year-old son Christopher, with hammer in hand, can be seen about his father's siness, as was our Lord in his father's carpenter shop 2,000 years ago.

Many newspapers and periodicals throughout the country, including the Washington Post, Washington Times, and Twin ies papers, have acknowledged Randy's works and talent.

Randy's first sales were a few lamp bases for the Ethan Allen Company made in his “The Tinker's Damn Shop” in ington. Many museums, universities, and individuals have purchased Randy's work, including a sculpture sold to the ndon B. Johnson Library at Austin, Texas. His works have been displayed in thirteen shows throughout the United States.

Randy, a Vietnam Veteran, has worked as a machinist, craftsman, designer, electrician, army mess sergeant, cattle feedlot eman, and wood craftsman. It has been said that Randy can make the oak dance and the elm sing “Stormy Weather”.

Recently, McLeans, an Irish Pub in Naples, Florida, purchased a two-foot high Irish bronze leprechaun from Randy. The ulpture was molded by Randy with David Hyduke doing the bronzing. McLeans will soon be expanding with seven new cations-one slated for Duluth for which Randy just received an order.

While Randy occupies the first floor of the old city hall building, H & R Block, the Gathering Post, along with studio ists Scott Fultz, Charlie Waterman, and Bruce McClain are located on the second floor.

Consignments by the local artists include pottery, quilts, weaving, woodcarving, rosemaling, painting, stained glass, and own glass. These items accompany Randy's woodwork, prints, stationery/cards, and country gifts.

Surely it can be said that Iowa's loss is St. Peter's gain.

Library Has Had Profound Impact On History Of Local Community

Libraries, known as "the memory of the human race", date back to the Babylonians who kept records on tablets of clay.

The Egyptians were the first to use papyrus scrolls for writings about 1100 A. D. The Chinese, noted for building libraries, were credited for inventing paper in 105 A. D. Benjamin Franklin, the United States' first Postmaster, established and owned the first lending library in 1731. The library is still in use today.

The British burned the Library of Congress, founded in 1800, to the ground in 1814. Thomas Jefferson, upon completion of the new Library of Congress building, sold his collection to the U. S. Government for the sum of $23,950.00. Today the Library of Congress, located in Washington, D. C., lists 11 million books and pamphlets.

The St. Peter Public Library, known as a reading room, was started in 1895 under the auspices of the newly formed St. Peter Women's Literary Club and was located on the second floor of the Bennet Building. Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson, Mrs. H. S. Stark, Mrs. Z. S. Gault (Sam's grandmother), Mrs. H. J. Essler, and Miss Emily Brown from the Literary Club were on the first board appointed by the club.

A group of civic-minded businessmen, realizing the need for operating funds, conducted a financial drive. They were the Nutter brothers, the Rinkel brothers, the Jackson brothers, Daniel Kennedy, R. W. Satory, and Philip Dick, Jr.

The reading room began with 100 books and magazines. Presently, the Public Library houses 15,000 books and 800 magazines and pamphlets.

In 1886, the City of St. Peter voted, by referendum, to accept the responsibility of a public library and the jurisdiction of the Common Council of the City of St. Peter on the second floor of the Dick Building.

Mayor Joseph Mason appointed the first Public Library Board, consisting of Dr. A. W. Daniels (a famous frontier physician) as president; Mrs. Charles R. Davis (wife of Congressman Davis), secretary; Dr. M. Wahlstrom (president of Gustavus Adolphus College); C. Amundson (retailer); H. S. Stark (president of Nicollet County Bank); Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson (wife of Dr. Harry Tomlinson, third Superintendent of the St. Peter State Hospital); Reverend Patrick Carey (priest of St. Peter's Catholic Church); and C. B. Schulz (Superintendent of St. Peter Public Schools.)

While the library was growing steadily at the turn of the century, members of the of the library board met for the express purpose to consider a permanent structure. The board was of the opinion the city would guarantee a ten percent annual pledge for a venture that would cost $15,000.00. After a year of discussion, the Board of Trade made a proposal to the City Council.

The Board of Trade with G. M. Evenson, secretary, communicated with Andrew Carnegie, who offered a gift of $10,000.00 for a library provided the city would guarantee $1,000.00 a year for a maintenance fund and furnish the site. The city accepted the offer and proposed Gorman Park for the site, but the site was rejected because it was too far from the downtown business district.

The city passed the responsibility for selecting a site to the library board. The Board chose the site where the Gorman Building stood and purchased it for the sum of $14,000.00. The three-story building, which housed the Odd Fellows and the Masonic Lodges on the third floor, had to be demolished.

The architectural firm of Downs, Church, and Holden of St. Paul submitted plans for the new library. The city approved the plans and Ole Fredricksen receive the bid for the sum of $9,836.00 in August 1903. Finding that the cost of the library would exceed $10,000.00, the board was forced to contact Carnegie again, who gave an additional unknown sum.

The building, completed in 1904, was officially named the St. Peter Public Library, since the city purchased the site and guaranteed the maintenance. Since the founding of the library, several trust funds have been set up in memory of friends and relatives and have been used to purchase new books.

Trust funds include Ole O. Strand, Lillian and Henry Benson, Rosalie Burns, Edward A. Johnson, and Agnes Filler. The nerican Legion Auxiliary, Rotary Club, Women's Literary Club, and many other organizations have given monies for books.

In November 1968, the St. Peter Library Board upon authorization from the city joined the Minnesota Valley Regional orary system that was composed of Nicollet, Sibley, and Blue Earth counties. The purpose of the regional system was to in together resources and personnel and to make them available to more people in the communities. Videocassettes, mstrip projectors, film projector recorders, screens, and many other items are available at a small rental fee.

Bev Aanonsen is the St. Peter representative and was elected president of the regional board this past year.

The Minnesota Valley Regional Library joined the Traverse des Sioux Library System in 1975. The Traverse system omprises eight counties and part of Brown County and gives the people the opportunity to borrow from other libraries cluding colleges and universities.

The children's library was established in 1964 in the remodeled basement of the library with Marilyn Hawkins as the first ildren's librarian followed by Irene Morris, Florence Halvorson, and Arlene Allen.

The library, since its inception, has had only eight librarians. The first librarian, Josie Powell Stone (1895-1907), was a rmer St. Peter schoolteacher and curator for the Nicollet County Historical Society. Following Miss Stone were Marian vler (1908-1929); Grace Gresham Heyn (1924-1941); St. Peter public schoolteacher Signe Chillstrom (1941-1943; Herald blumnist Marjorie Haesecke (1943-1964); Catherine Chapman (1964-1973); Virginia Johnson (1973-1977) who, even though ne was married, was known as "Miss Virginia" to her elementary students when she taught music in the St. Peter public hools; and Judy Miller who has served as librarian since 1972. The library minutes list 26 assistant librarians, with Louise oogenboom presently holding that position.

The present library board consists of Carl Aanonsen as president, Marian Babcock, Alice Hinnenthal, Miriam McPherson, lice Swenson, and Gladys Vick.

Many citizens have served on the board during the past 80 years, including Mrs. J. A. Poetz, a former St. Peter school acher, who served as secretary from 1910 to 1960; she was said to have read every book that went on the shelves. Melville Davis, former Superintendent of St. Peter Schools, served 46 years as president of the board. Other members include Mrs. . L. Klein, 45 years; Mrs. James Nutter, 44 years; Miss Gracie Bowden, treasurer with 40 years on the board; Hilton E. Miller, ho replaced his father, E. E. Miller, 27 years; Herb Filler, 25 years; and Harold Overn, 22 years.

Many from the college and public schools served including former eighth grade teacher Miss Helen Bornemann, a escendant of one of Traverse des Sioux' and St. Peter's first families. Elizabeth Seaquist, for whom the Seaquist Library at e Regional Treatment Center is named, served on the board. Seaquist not only wrote a history of the State Hospital, but so the history of the St. Peter Public Library while on the board.

The St. Peter Public Library will be observing the 80th anniversary of the present library building from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., riday, April 13. The St. Peter Women's Literary Club will hold a silver tea at that time. Maybe then, someone can tell us hy there is a period after the word "Library" above the front portal.

his article appeared in the April 12, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

our Firms Meet City's Plumbing Needs

Iork Plumbing and Heating

Marlin "Ole" Mork came to St. Peter in 1930 and lived his boyhood days in a house where the First National Bank driven entrance sign is now located.

As a youngster, Mork had a variety of jobs that included shoeshine boy for Miles Lunak's shoe repair shop, custodian for C. Penney Co., and working at the Nicollet Hotel during his senior year in high school.

Upon graduation, Mork enlisted in the Navy and served on the battleship Maryland in the South Pacific where he was in on the invasion of Saipan, Guam, Palau, and Okinawa.

Mork completed two years at Gustavus Adolphus College while working at "Frenchie" Pacquin's Standard (where Dr. Gene Kind now has his veterinary office). Wally Covell purchased "Frenchie's" business with Ole working for him until 1954.

From 1954 to 1969, Mork was employed by Roger Theis, owner of Theis Plumbing and Heating, until 1969 when Ole went out on his own.

A master plumber, Mork does service work and repairs exclusively. His biggest jobs were assisting Theis with Klein's Funeral Home and St. Peter's Rectory and Convent.

Mork and his wife Vivian have two sons, Alan and Brian. Alan served three years in the army, is now a student at Mankato State University, and is employed at the Holiday House. Brian is now in communications in the Air Force. Both worked for Mork during their high school summers.

Daughters Sharon and Karen live in New Hope and Minneapolis, respectively. Vivian is the firm's bookkeeper and is also employed at the food service department at Gustavus Adolphus College.

The most unusual job Mork has encountered was hooking up a dialysis machine with instructions from the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Mork, a member of the William R. Witty American Legion Post No. 37, Trinity Lutheran Church, and the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, has served the community for more than 40 years.

Witty Plumbing and Heating

Bob Witty, owner of Witty Plumbing and Heating, had the distinction of growing up in the Nicollet County Jail quarters, where his father, the late Clifford "Tip" Witty was sheriff, and his mother Hazel was the jailer.

Witty, a St. Peter High School athlete, as were all the Wittys, was named South Central All Conference football player as a guard. Upon graduation, he served in the U. S. Navy as an electrician. Completing his service, he worked for the Wettergren Dairy for three years, as did Jim and "Buzz".

In 1958, Witty was employed at Don's Ace Hardware doing rural plumbing and other service jobs. He stayed at Ace until 1971, when he started Witty Enterprises, doing plumbing, heating, and installing TV antennas. Later, he changed the name to Witty Plumbing and Heating, concentrating on plumbing and heating.

In 1972, Witty purchased the historic Engesser Building, built in 1887 at the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Park Row East, from Roger Theis.

The double front building, once a clothing store, houses the North American Cable Systems office, Witty's plumbing and heating business, and a laundromat with 21 washers and dryers. Gould's barbershop has occupied a portion of the basement since 1924. Dick Cassett, Lloyd Gould's nephew, has been there most of those years except for his years in the service.

Witty is assisted by son-in-law Jim Andresen, who is a master plumber and is also an agent for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and by his son B. J. Witty's wife, Jo, the firm's bookkeeper.

In 1971, Witty did plumbing and heating for Wick and Waconia homes from the Twin Cities to Sleepy Eye. His firm is one of the few plumbing and heating shops in the state that is certified for on-site sewage systems. His equipment consists of two vans and a backhoe and he is equipped to do drain cleaning up to four inches.

On Sundays, Witty can be seen driving the Sunrise Assembly of God van or bus, picking up passengers. A former ember of Boy Scout Troop 58 (where he attained the Order of the Arrow), he now heads up the church's Royal Rangers, oungsters from the ages of 7 to 12.

An ardent church worker, Witty has plumbed the new addition to the church and the pastor's house.

The biggest job he has contracted was G. T. O. Enterprises Building and recently the addition to the First National Bank.

Witty, an avid hunter, credits his father "Tip" for his love for hunting and his mother, Hazel, for his faith.

hompson Plumbing and Heating

Melvin Thompson, proprietor of Thompson Plumbing and Heating, graduated from St. Peter High School in 1968.

In 1969, Thompson joined the U. S. Naval Reserve, serving on active duty from 1971 to 1974, being stationed at the aval Air Station in Dallas, Texas.

In 1971, he married Barbara Jean Pettis, daughter of Carl and Lois Pettis of Kasota Township. Barb is the bookkeeper for oth Thompson Plumbing and Heating and the Pettis Insurance Agency, besides caring for their three children.

Upon completion of his military service, Thompson attended St. Cloud State Vo-Tech one year for a one-year plumbing ourse, from which he graduated. The following year, he graduated from the same school in the field of sheet metal design nd assembly. While in St. Cloud, Thompson did plumbing work through Stan Severson's Handyman Hardware Store.

Thompson returned to St. Peter and moved into the late Carl Pettis, Sr.'s home east of St. Peter. In 1976, he furthered his chooling by enrolling in a class for air conditioning, refrigeration, heating, and appliance repair at Mankato Vo-Tech, raduating in 1978.

Thompson worked weekends in his vocation until 1978, when he went into business for himself.

In 1978, Thompson received his master plumbing license form the Minnesota Board of Health.

In 1979, he moved his shop from a single garage to a 36-foot by 72-foot fully insulated Morton commercial building. The uilding houses his truck, sheet metal equipment, and inventory.

Thompson not only installs plumbing, forced-air heating, air conditioning systems, sheet metal ductwork, boiler, hot ater heating systems, and whirlpool spas.

Thompson's father, Myles, a retired 35-year maintenance employee at the State Hospital, assists Mel in the business hen needed.

Thompson, who is a member of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, says his variety of work and meeting new eople make his life very interesting.

ood Plumbing and Heating

Barry Wood was born not too far from the "Little House on the Prairie" city, Walnut Grove.

Upon graduation from high school, Wood entered the U. S. Navy and served from 1957 through 1960 sailing the Panama anal?) and Pacific waters.

In 1964, he moved to Tracy (the Boxcar City) where he worked for Deming Plumbing and Heating until moving to Le ueur.

Wood joined Spiess and Coulter Plumbing and Heating in St. Peter in 1971 and stayed until 1980 when he became oreman and general manager for Palmer Construction of Le Sueur.

When Palmer moved his operation to North Dakota in 1983, Wood, with a master's license, decided to venture out on his own, specializing in sheet metal work, hot water heat, steam heat, and general plumbing.

Wood has installed heating and plumbing in 8-unit apartments, $500,00.00 homes in Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Green Giant at Le Sueur, and numerous other dwellings.

Recently, Wood did the work for Ross Feder's 32-unit Pioneer Properties located where the historic Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church was located.

Wood's wife, Betty, is the firm's bookkeeper and homemaker caring for their three children.

Wood is presently the newest member of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce.

This article appeared in the May 10, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

Ralph Lindemeier's Business Is Milk On Wheels

As June is known as Dairy Month, we not only salute the dairy farmer, but a firm that is wholly associated with the dairy industry the year round.

Ralph Lindemeier, owner of the truck firm, has his headquarters three miles west of St. Peter off of Highway 22 on land that he purchased from Bernard "Bud" Miller. A pole building, 54 feet by 126 feet, houses the firm's six International trucks that reach out 74 miles to haul nature's most perfect food-milk.

The six trucks have stainless steel tanks ranging from a 3,250-gallon to 5,000-gallon capacity. When Lindemeier took over the business in 1969 from Bob Ziegler, the tanks ranged from 1,500 to 3,250-gallons maximum. The dairy farmer's tank usually holds from 200 to 2,000 gallons, with herds running from 15 to 80 cows.

The temperature of the milk from the stainless steel bulk and transport tanks runs between 38 to 40 degrees to the plant. The amount of milk in the tanks is measured in inches on a stainless steel dipstick, then converted to pounds.

The bulk tanks replace the three, five, eight, and ten-gallon cans that were used until 40 years ago. Many country school students remember sitting on five-gallon cans on the way to school on cream days at the local creamery. Those were the days when the milk was farm-separated.

Lindemeier grew up on a farm four miles from the Bongard Cheese Plant, where his trucks now haul Grade B milk for manufacturing. A new state law, as of July 1, 1985, require all Grade B producers to be certified.

Prior to owning his own business, Lindemeier worked for the Hallett Construction Company for ten years. He was supervisor of concrete paving for Halletts in Iowa and also worked for the company when they built government missile bases near Minot, North Dakota.

Lindemeier says that, despite milk production being down due to the government's dairy program, he still hauls for several patrons that produce 100,000 pounds per month.

His drivers are Jim and Paul Rodning, Scott Kelley, Steve and Dale Jonason, and Pieter Gaalswyk. They start hauling between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. and finish between 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

The trucks, after unloading at the plant, are washed inside and outside with the water taken out of the milk. Milk contains 87% water.

When the trucks return to the shop, Lindemeier maintains and services them, as he is his own mechanic. All trucks are equipped with block heaters and fuel heaters so the diesel doesn't jell in cold weather.

Ralph has built the business from 35 to 130 patrons. The drivers have missed only two days of work, during the "storm the century" in January 1975. Lindemeier and driver Cal Nourie were stranded at attorney Jim Brandt's parents' dairy farm Lake Prairie during that storm.

Lindemeier says that the area is blessed with efficient dairy farmers and a good producer's outlet with Bongard's, the Le eur Cheese Plant, the St. Peter Creamery, and Nicollet Foods.

At one time, 13 creameries served the area.

is appeared in the June 14, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

nimin, Inc.: Ottawa And Kasota

The Unimin sand plants, located in Ottawa and Kasota, are two of the 16 Unimin plants that makes the company one of e largest and most efficient businesses in the USA.

The Ottawa plant is located on the east side of the Minnesota River in the proximity of Traverse des Sioux, takes its me from a Sioux Indian name meaning "trader".

"Kasota" appropriately named by the Sioux. It means "clear or clearing" referring to the virgin prairie on its periphery. any old-timers referred to the Kasota prairie as "O'Briens' Pasture" where thousands of cattle grazed over the years.

The first sand plant was built over 30 years ago by engineer-manager Dick McElvain on land acquired from the late Jim ayes. The operation was known as Gopher Silica until it was sold to the Unimin Company in 1980.

Bill Woods is the president of the privately owned company, with headquarters in Canaan, Connecticut. The Gopher ica had several managers since its founding, but the manager best known in the St. Peter area was the late Charles Wivell, no was married to Reverend F. W. Hauser's daughter, Alice.

In 1980, a new plant was built in Ottawa, followed by a new plant in Kasota in 1982. P, K. Edwards, Vice President of gineering, was the engineer for the construction of both plants.

Dennis Johnson was manager of the Kasota plant until October of 1983 when he was reassigned to the Cleburne, Texas imin plant. Dean Latsch took over the Kasota plant in addition to the Ottawa operation.

The Kasota plant is manned by 30 employees working 24 hours a day, four days a week. The Ottawa operation has 70 nployees working 24 hours a day, five days a week. Dean says that the Kasota operation has put out more sand during the st five months of 1984 than during the entire previous year. The only time the plant is shut down is when the temperature aches 30 below zero, which makes it difficult to pump the slurry (sand and water) to the plant.

The precious sand, described by geologists as 99.7% pure silica sand from the Cambrian age, is in demand worldwide.

The sand, when it reaches the plant, is dried and sifted into 12 grades and packaged into 50, 100, and 3,000-pound bags d is shipped in bulk by rail, truck, and ships to its destinations. The Kasota plant ships entirely by rail, while the Ottawa ant shipments are evenly divided between rail and truck, making Unimin the Chicago & Northwestern's largest southern innesota customer for rail transportation.

The sand at Kasota is used for gas and oil well projects while the sand at Ottawa is used for glass, foundries, and oil and s wells. When the land is reclaimed at the plants, it is put into crop, pasture, and reforestation. The Ottawa operation will on have a second lake with Kasota having a 40-acre lake in the future. The Unimin operation at Kasota has a conservation ne that cannot be mined and is under the jurisdiction of the "Prairie Restoration" organization.

The early settlers in the Ottawa area used silica sand in the mortar for houses and other buildings 130 years ago. Today, nd from the same area is helping produce energy for businesses, industries, and people throughout the world.

Country Pub Keeps Service, Good Food A Tradition

The Country Pub, one of St. Peter's well-known dining establishments, is located on a ten-acre hillside three miles sout of St. Peter.

The French countryside building is bordered to the south by a grove of sturdy oak trees that overshadow the Shanhask Creek. Shanhaska is an Indian name meaning "surrounded by trees". The creek runs from Lake Washington through Kasota to the mighty Minnesota River.

The pub, once known as the Hillside Club because of its location, was also called Von's, named after the founder John Von Essen (Bobby's uncle.)

Von's first employees, when he started more than 50 years ago, were Jack Baker, Rusty Weblo, Irma Moll, Maurice Kirby brother Herman and his wife, the late Edna Von Essen, and his sister-in-law Frieda Gierke Michaels.

The private club was a favorite place for St. Peter people to dine and dance. In fact, the late Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg, former Gustavus Adolphus College athlete and coach as well as St. Peter High School teacher and coach, took pen in hand and wrote a poem in testimony of Von and the establishment.
The name remained Hillside until taken over by Dave Poncin, who called the club Scotch 'n Sirloin.

The Hubbard Milling Company, upon purchase of the property, renamed the club the New Country Pub.

The pub has three dining rooms that seat 170 people, who come from a 70-mile radius.

The Garden Room, formerly the Porch, is used for intimate gatherings and meetings. There is also the Brookview room, with a new redwood deck, and the main dining room. The Shanhaska Lounge gives the patrons a view of the babbling Shanhaska Creek.

The pub has a new 30-foot white Lincoln Limousine that is used to transport patrons to the club for birthdays, weddings anniversaries, and other receptions.

The new six-door car has red leather upholstering, moon roof, side bar, VCR (color TV video), and will accommodate two people in front and six passengers in back.

Cindy Dalton Florine, the pub's general manager, said the customers can enjoy music with their dining.
Pianist Terry Powell, a Mankato native and friend of Cindy's father, "Jim" Dalton, has returned to Mankato after 15 years of playing in Las Vegas and throughout the United States.

Powell will be playing at the pub from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, August 3.

Many St. Peterites remember when Powell worked at the Marigold Dairies while attending Mankato State. He played several years with the Marigold Dixieland Band at the Nicollet County Fair on North Mankato night.

Incidentally, Jim Dalton (Cindy's brother) is no stranger to the area, having pitched baseball for Le Center (1950 State Champions) and for St. Peter upon his graduation from the University of Notre Dame.

Grannie's Parlour, Cat's Away Are Celebrating Their Anniversaries

Grannie's Parlour

Grannie's Parlour, formerly the Pizza Villa, located at 301 South Minnesota Avenue, is owned and operated by Virginia (Ginny) and Francis (Tuffy) Miller.

Grannie's Parlour this Labor Day will be celebrating its 25th year in business.

Originally, the business was to be in one of the late Norman Gault's buildings, where the Red Owl parking lot is located. e pizza parlor, when about to open, learned from Gault that the property was sold and the building would be razed. nny said that Gault, being a man of integrity, reimbursed the Millers $1,000.00 for their material, labor, and inconvenience, ıs enabling them to move into the north half of the historic John Engesser building where North American Cable TV now cupies the entire front.

In 1968, the Pizza Villa operation was moved to its present location when the building was purchased from the ugdahl family.

The historic building has an interesting background. It was built in 1866 by Charlie Fay, who built the building for a oon upon his return from the gold fields of California.

According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee issue, the pillars for the building were cast in St. Louis, shipped via amboat up the Mississippi River to St. Paul, and from thence to St. Peter on the Minnesota River.

Philip Dick, Sr. (Margaret Keller's grandfather) operated a clothing store on the ground floor while the telephone mpany and Western Union occupied the second floor.

Charles Rost housed a leather and harness shop in the building prior to Olson and Seitzer Hardware Store. Albert Seitzer ıs the father of Jim Seitzer and Marion Boys. Later Selma Johnson operated the hardware store until the Crash of 1929.

The Haugdahl's leased the building to C. S. Casebere and Fred Norberg, who operated a billiard parlor, newsstand, and staurant on the premises for more than ten years.

The A & P store (Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company) leased the property from 1942-1959 with Howard Ricker, manager. ext to the Winona A & P store, this St. Peter store was the last to close west of the Mississippi River.

Bob Gannon rented the building for a restaurant from 1960-1968 before moving his business to the old First National nk Building across the street.

In 1983, the restaurant went from a pizza menu to a family-type restaurant and its name became Grannie's Parlour. The modeled restaurant, with historic St. Peter pictures and a change in furniture, gives the interior an old-fashioned nosphere.

Ginny's family members, Deb, Kris, and Ann, have taken their turns as waitresses and in the delivery service, while sband "Tuffy," after his regular hours with the City of St. Peter, works as the maintenance man.

The payroll at Grannie's Parlour consists of ten people, all from St. Peter, that can help, aid, and assist in the operation this 25-year old business.

at's Away Cafe

The Cat's Away Cafe, owned and operated by Sue and Jim Steffensmeier, doing business at 402 South Third Street, was ırchased from Esther Gaines in 1974. When Esther owned the business, it was known as Esther's Friendly Cafe.

In 1952, the business was first located in quarters now occupied by Dr. Joe G. Sheehan and the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1960, Esther moved into the Konsbruck building, built in 1901, where Shari's closet is located.

In 1981, Sue and Jim purchased the building where Roy Rasmussen had a marine and appliance store. Previously, the me building was occupied by Sam Shei's blacksmith shop. Later, Vic Colberg took over the business and was followed by ck Koenechne and Jerry Tardy's Machine and Minneapolis Moline's Implement Shop.

In 1972, Mark Hinnenthal and Ed Stindt, upon selling their hardware store to Bob Reid, opened Mark-Ed's Power Marine ıop on the premises.

Jim, a 17-year employee at the Minnesota Security Hospital, with help from his brothers and friends, remodeled the building in 41 days. Sue, with the aid of the cooks and waitresses, did all the painting and staining preparatory to opening the new cafe on October 2, 1981.

Sue remembers helping her father Bud Lynn, former chief of police, and other officers in preparing Christmas breakfasts and dinners on Christmas Day for the elderly, homeless, needy, and travelers for the past 17 years.

This appeared in the August 30, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

Bergan's Red Owl And Ron's No Frills (National Tea)

Pioneer grocery stores in the early years of St. Peter include the names of C. Amundson & Company, S. Schumaker, Stark Brothers, Baberick, Randle & Noble, Hedberg, J. A. Stemple, and Theo. Knoll.

My generation is acquainted with the names of William Rinkel, Tegner & Peterson, P. H. Schuveiller, C. A. Johnson, Johnson Cash (Burton's folks), O. B. Johnson Fairway, Foss Red & White, Wayside Inn (Southside), Ray E. and Ray C. Olson Fairway, Tillie Weber's Broadway, Jim Wendroth's Pantry Grocery, Starkens, Glass, and many more.

Today, Bergen's Red Owl, Ron's No Frills (National Tea), Erickson's Family Shopping Center, St. Peter Food Co-op, Budget Mart, Penny Pincher, and the Milk House are the local, tax-paying food-related stores.

Bergen's Red Owl

Bergen's Red Owl, located at 108 South Minnesota Avenue, in the Johnson building, now owned by Dennis Palmer, stands next to where Convention Hall stood. Convention Hall was a two-story wooden 40 by 60-foot building built as the temporary capitol of Minnesota until Joe Rolette committed the dastardly act of stealing the famous bill which would have made St. Peter the capital of Minnesota. However, the building was used as the Nicollet County Courthouse until 1881 as St. Peter stole the county seat from the Village of Traverse des Sioux.

The first Red Owl store was located in Bob Witty's building at Minnesota and Park Row, with S. Sparstad as the first manager. Leon Bunde became manager on January 1, 1930, the same year as St. Peter celebrated the "great white way" (new lights and highway). Leon and Elsie Bunde have the distinction of being in business longer than any St. Peterite. Miles Lunak, who came to St. Peter in 1931, has the honor of being in the same business (shoe repair) longer than anyone in business today.

Red Owl's next move was to the Masonic building, where the Bundes operated their specialty shop, followed by a move to the Odd Fellows building, now Schlenker's Dan's Hardware.

In 1962, Red Owl moved to its present location, with Bob Wellman as manager. Steve and Marsha Bergan purchased the local Red Owl operation in 1980. Steve, a graduate of St. Louis Park High School and Macalester College, worked his way through the ranks doing all jobs, until he managed three stores before purchasing the St. Peter operation.

Steve's wife and business partner, Marsha, hails from Austin, Minnesota, where she graduated from high school and Austin Vo-Tech as a registered nurse. Marsha was an R. N. at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. The Bergans' children, Courtney and Jeffrey, were both born since they moved to St. Peter.

Steve is active in community affairs. Presently, he is board member and tail twister for the Lions Club, board member at Shoreland Country Club, St. Peter Housing Authority board member, and Inter-District Co-op School Advisory Board member.

The Bergans employ 25 people, with Marie Seitzer, Pat Hobday, and Steve Nygard completing 16 years with the local operation.

on's No Frills

Ron's No Frills, located at 220 West Grace Street, is owned by Ron Dargis, who also has two stores in Elk River.

In 1983, Ron purchased the local operation as an independent owner.

National Tea (the original name) started in business in 1928 in the south portion of the Burg building, now owned by an and Anita Grue. Constructed 120 years ago, the historic building houses the Sugar & Spice Ice Cream and Coffee oppe and Bakery. Eddie and Clara Hanson occupied the south half for over 30 years with their Eddie's Gamble Store.

Henry Hokanson operated the General Store in Traverse before becoming National Tea's first manager. He ran the store til 1940 when he became district manager for the parent company.

Lawrence Marso became manager when Henry left, and after a few months, left for the armed forces until 1946. During wrence's absence during the war years, several managers ran the operation with Alan Strand being the most popular.

Upon Lawrence's return, he married a local Irish colleen, Ellen O'Brien, who enjoys retirement with Lawrence, who tired in 1974.

In 1949, the ever-growing business expanded into the new C. A. Wettergren building, where the Ecks had their Living enter. National, in 1962, moved to a new 10,000 square foot building at 220 West Grace, built by the Wooldrick family of eepy Eye.

Ron's payroll consists of 23 part and full-time employees. Roger Wolfe (a Traverse native) has been with the local eration since 1962 as produce manager. Jim Spier, assistant manager, has been there for eight years. Jim Pursifull, who ith his wife Donna own the Southside Motel, has been there for ten years.

Tom Denn, a graduate of Cretin High School in St. Paul, apprenticed at Applebaum's in St. Paul, before becoming sistant manager for National at Hutchinson. Tom, now the manager, has been with the local operation for 4 years. Tom d his wife Jeanette, also from St. Paul, have two children, Allison and Anne.

rickson's Food And Value Drug And St. Peter Food Co-op

rickson's

Erickson's, at 612 South Minnesota Avenue, is one of the sixteen stores owned by Dean Erickson.

Dean's father, Herman, who started the first store in Dallas, Wisconsin in 1917, founded Erickson Food, Inc.

Fourteen of the Erickson's stores are a combination of food and drug and are located in Minnesota and Wisconsin with eadquarters in Hudson, Wisconsin. The two exclusive drug stores are located in New Ulm, Minnesota, and Menomonie, isconsin.

Erickson's in St. Peter opened its doors in February of 1972, with Rick Siegel, now district manager, as the manager. ck, a 20-year employee with the company, has his office in the local Erickson building.

Jeff Busby, a Henderson native, has been with Erickson's for the past twelve years. He has worked his way through the nks from a produce manager to being named manager in 1983.

Joe Monahan, a 1975 graduate of Mankato State University and front-end operations manager, worked for a Mankato od center as the assistant manager.

Loren Sundboom, the head pharmacist of the Value Drug Pharmacy, has been with the store since the St. Peter store ened.

John Jensen, manager of the meat department, is a 13-year employee. Neil Heilman has ten years as produce manager; Catherine King has five years as deli manager; Phyliss Sellner, clothing manager, has ten years; Darv Tollefson has four years as non-food manager; and Linda Orth, four years as head cashier.

The company presently employs 72 part and full-time employees and expects to add to the staff when they open a new 10,500 square foot addition. The new addition will accompany the present 17,500 square feet. The expansion will provide more space for meat, produce, delicatessen, as well as dry grocery.

It is interesting to note that the Erickson-Twin City Federal block was once the location of the Assemblies of God congregation, St. Peter Tile Company, and eight homes before being rezoned to B1.

Jeff reminded me that one of his former employees was Beth Ruyak, former Miss Minnesota, and now a news commentator for KMSP, Channel 9 in the Twin Cities.

St. Peter Food Co-op

St. Peter Food Co-op started five years ago, after John Ramsli ran an advertisement to learn if there were enough people interested in opening a St. Peter store. Co-managers Margo O'Brien and Sheila Murra said there are 400 members who have invested in stock at $5.00 per share. The co-op is operated by volunteers who receive a discount for their labor, as do the senior citizens.

The historic building, owned by Bob Geldner, Sr., located at 101 North Front Street, once a saloon and later Woehler's Tin Shop, was a busy place during the riverboat days. The steamships docked a few blocks north where the immigrants and cargo were unloaded from the banks of the mighty Minnesota River. Across the street from the Food Co-op building stood the Colonel B. F. Pratt Four Mill on the land that is now called Levee Park.

The first steamboat to come up the St. Peter River (now the Minnesota River) was the Anthony Wayne in 1850. The last steamboat was the Henrietta in 1897. I was told that the Henrietta became lodged in the river and wasn't freed until the waters came up in the spring.

Front Street, commonly called "Cow Street" or "Riverside Drive", was the business street, until the late 1800's when the business shifted to Third Street. Today, the main street or Highway 169 is the busiest street.

Sheila and Margo are satisfied that the business has grown to the extent that all equipment, including freezers and coolers have been replaced. Recently, Granny's Attic (clothing) has been converted into a sandwich shop.

The store is unique in a way that differs from the regular grocery store or supermarket as it specializes in ethnic foods, more spices, and new condiments. The philosophy is to offer foods that contain little processing and products that are not chemically treated.

The bulk of supplies are purchased from the Dance Warehouse in Minneapolis with butter from the St. Peter Creamery and eggs from Norseland General Store. The produce is purchased locally when in season.

Margo says they enjoyed a good business during October, which was designated as Co-op Month.

This appeared in the November 1, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

Cleaners Have Served St. Peter A Long Time: Stensby Cleaners And Nu-Way Cleaners

Stensby Cleaners

Stensby Cleaners, owned and operated by LeRoy and Agnes Stensby, is located at 200 South Minnesota Avenue in downtown St. Peter.

The Stensby building goes back to 1929 when Roy T. (Tuddie) Lindenberg, Gustavus Hall of Famer and brother-in-law the late Ab Haugdahl, opened a gas station on the Minnesota Avenue and Park Row location.

I can still visualize the huge painted sign on the driveway wall that read “Haugdahl Oil Company-Owned and Operated St. Peter People”. On the corner of the property adjacent to the gas sign was a gigantic flagpole that was noticeable to ssersby.

The Stensbys were no strangers to the dry cleaning business with LeRoy working 12 years in the business while Agnes as employed as a public accountant.

The Stensbys visited several plants in many cities throughout Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota before deciding on St. eter after three visits. The Stensbys were close friends of the Carlander family, but it was Ray Dick and his wife, the late sella Dick, that sold them on St. Peter. Agnes said that it was the John Ireland School, Gustavus Adolphus College, and the ch, fertile farmland that impressed the Stensbys no end.

When the Stensbys purchased the St. Peter Laundry and Dry Cleaning equipment in 1963, there were four established y cleaning firms here, namely Runkle’s Nu-Way, Ray’s Perfection, and Johnson’s, who had a pick-up station, where ensbys are. Incidentally, Ray Nelson had the last naphtha dry cleaning establishment in Minnesota.

The Stensbys moved from the Haack building on Park Row, now owned by Don Neiman, to the Lindenberg building, hich they purchased in September of 1967. Many remember the Lindenberg gas station where the late Bill Annexstad and harles Babcock worked while attending Gustavus Adolphus College. Howard Ricker, the late Earl Lomis, and Ben Myhra nted a stall for their mechanic operation. The five overhead doors have been converted to large windows.

The Stensbys, since moving to their new quarters, have replaced all the equipment with a new washer-dryer mbination, a large dryer, and a mileage booster-vapor absorber. The latter machine picks up the fumes and converts them ack into a liquid, thus keeping the fumes from polluting the air. LeRoy, a gifted person, installed the equipment and tends the high-pressure boiler.

He said that although, polyester material is very popular, many people have returned to wool and cotton. The busiest ason the Stensbys experience is the Easter season when more than a 40-hour workweek is very common.

LeRoy suggests that customers, regardless of where they take their cleaning, inform the cleaner as to what type of spot stain is on the garment. This aids the cleaner as to what pre-spot solution is to be used.

In 1976, the Stensbys had “Bucky” Walter remove seven gas tanks when the new driveway was installed.

The Stensbys have always enjoyed music. Agnes sings in a local church choir. LeRoy and Agnes have not only been ctive in local affairs, but on the state level where LeRoy served a three-year term on the Minnesota Fabric Care Institute.

Today there are but 25,000 dry cleaning plants in the U. S. A. LeRoy chuckles when he thinks about a prominent usinessman telling him he would last but 90 days.

The Stensbys’ way of life is exemplified by the wording on a plaque in the shop that says, “Today is the first day of the st of your life”.

u-Way Cleaners

The Nu-Way Cleaners, one of St. Peter’s oldest businesses, was founded when Leo Runkle arrived from Gaylord in 1940 nd purchased the G. W. Gruber building at 303 South Minnesota Avenue.

His wife, Evie, a St. Peter native, was employed at the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office (ASC ffice) on the second floor of the Dick building (now Ben Franklin). The building is now owned by John Meistrell where he perates the Ben Franklin store.

Some of the employees at Nu-Way include Connie Anderson, retired and now living in the state of Washington; LeRoy Spiess, who operates a plant in Madelia; Archie Menk, postmaster at Janesville; and Dorothy Maas.

Leo is on the road part of the time with the Rug Doctor machine, serving New Prague, Montgomery, Le Sueur, Nicollet, and Le Center, where they have a pick-up stop at Elmer's Cafe. Leo said of all the carpet cleaning he has done in 50 years, the Gustavus Adolphus dining room is the largest with 7,940 square feet.

Leo, a charter member of the St. Peter Lions Club, is an ardent fisherman and hunter. He has hunted and fished with attorney Malcolm Mackenzie and Dr. Joe Sheehan for over 25 years and they can vouch for his veracity when it comes to his accomplishments.

The Runkles' sons, David and Dale, have pursued different paths in the business world. David studied pre-engineering at Gustavus Adolphus College before receiving his degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota. He is employed by Advanced Micro Devices with offices in Southdale.

Dale, a graduate of Mankato State University, received a B. A. degree and an M. A. degree before becoming the City Planner in Eagan, where he works with Tom Hedges, St. Peter's first City Clerk Administrator.

The Runkles, like so many business people, are happy they cast their lot in St. Peter.

This appeared in the November 29, 1984 St. Peter Herald.

There Were Many Close Shaves: St. Peter Barbershops

In the early years, barbers were men of two professions: barbery-shaving and surgeons.

King Henry VIII of England, known for his many wives, separated the two professions by an Act of Parliament, whereby barbers were forbidden to do any surgical operations except bloodletting and tooth drawing.

The surgeons, according to the Act, were not allowed to practice barbery. The law was in effect until the reign of King George II. Today, most states require barbers, beauticians, and hair stylists to be licensed.

Gould (Cassett) Barber Shop

Jim Welsh and the late Art Overson and the late Lloyd Gould were known to have barbered in St. Peter for 50 years. H. A. Maves, Augie LaCroix, Bob West, Joe Waddell, Leonard (Lullar) Weibel, Joe Parno, Pete Balle, Forest (Speeder) Gillham, E. E. Kurth, Cliff Neal, Earl Mayo, Larry Skramstad, Joe Stevens, Gene Harris and son George Harris, and many other St. Peter barbers of yesteryear.

Gene and George Harris were the grandfather and father, respectively, of Gene Harris, the senior Chemical Dependency Counselor at Johnson Hall at the State Hospital. Gene, a certified Chemical Dependency Counselor, will retire the first of the year.

Lloyd Gould, Dick Cassett's uncle, came to St. Peter in 1921, after serving in the Navy in World War I. In 1924, Lloyd purchased the business from Jack Christy and barbered in the same quarters for 50 years. The shop is in the basement of the Engesser building which was built in 1889 and is now owned by Bob Witty.

Four well-known barbers apprenticed under Lloyd, the late Eddie Heideman (Nicollet), Mac McCourtney (Le Center), Ralph Schneider (retired and now living in Loretta), and present owner, Dick Cassett. The shoeshine boys who worked for Gould were Ernie Menk, Ray Sinders, Roy and Bud Haney, Dick Cassett, Rush Lind, and Keith Connors.

Dick, having been brought up in the barbershop, returned to St. Peter after serving as ship's serviceman's barber in the Navy on a destroyer in the Pacific during World War II. Dick and his wife Ann have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Although semi-retired, Dick has kept busy with his membership in the Presbyterian Church, Nicollet County V. F. W. st 1220, American Legion Post 37, Masonic Orders, and the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce.

esnar's Barber Shop

George Lesnar, a native of Grenville, S. D., farmed with his father and brother until entering the Navy in 1943, serving in e South Pacific during World War II.

Upon completion of his military service, George enrolled at Lee's Barber School in St. Paul, where he obtained a rber's license. He worked in shops in Canby and Owatonna before answering an advertisement in the Minneapolis ibune denoting a shop for sale in St. Peter.

In 1950, he purchased the business from Joe Waddell at 222 1/2 South Minnesota Avenue in the basement of the old collet County Bank building, now owned by Dr. Michael Dieter.

Russ Zabel was working for Waddell and stayed with George until his death in 1954. Speeder Gillham and Jimmy Welsh, ho later had their own shops, barbered for George at one time or another.

When shaving was a common practice, there was what they called the JUST boys (just a shave) and when they would me down the steps, whoever wasn't busy would exit for the bathroom, for the JUST boys' beards were like wire and body was anxious to shave them. Shaves, in those days, were 75 cents and a crew cut or flat top was 50 cents.

George says that barbering has been good to the Lesnars. He has met many wonderful people and friends. George and s wife, Carole, have raised six children and have eight grandchildren.

George will semi-retire in two and a half years and plans to devote more time to his church (St. Peter's Catholic), the collet County V. F. W. Post 1220, the American Legion Post 37, the Red Men Lodge, and the St. Peter Area Chamber of mmerce.

George says, only in a barbershop can you find shoeshine boys like Pete Mead, Ted Wolfe, Earl Warning, Roy Haney, d Clifford (Tishy) Dranttel.

oren's Barber Shop

Loren's Barber Shop, located at 214 South Minnesota Avenue is owned and operated by Loren Barclay. The building, vned by Earl and Elaine Mayo, is one of St. Peter's oldest. S. O. Strand's Millinery (Hat) Store was located in the building ears ago.

In the late 1930s, the building was converted into a barber and beauty shop, operated by E. E. Kurth and later Cliff Neal, efore Loren's proprietary shop.

Loren, who was born in Luverne, grew up in the Tyler-Russell area. Upon graduation from high school, Loren attended oux City Barber College in Sioux City, Iowa where he obtained a barber's license.

In 1965, Loren arrived in St. Peter, where Earl Mayo employed him until he entered the Navy in 1967. After serving in etnam and in Alaska, Loren returned to St. Peter and to Mayo's, using the front quarters for his business, while Elaine ayo occupies the rest of the building with her Shirt Hut business.

Loren, a member of the Nicollet County V. F. W. Post 1220, was a charter member of the St. Peter Area Volunteer nbulance Service, where he served eight years. He is noted for his green thumb and proudly cares for the flowers and tree front of his shop.

Many barbers have come and gone, but whatever happened to the old saying, "Shave and a haircut-six bits", or the urma Shave signs that were adjacent to the highways?

is appeared in the January 10, 1985 St. Peter Herald.

Looking Over St. Peter Hair Styling Businesses

Beauty operators are trained persons who cut, shampoo, set, comb, brush, curl, and decorate hair for a livelihood.

The art of hairstyling dates back to 3,000 B. C., when the Egyptians were the first known to work with human hair.

In St. Peter, the first known hair dressers were Abbie Young, Mayme Dummer Scheibel, Lillian Sjostrom, Dorothy Ollerman, Sophie Adolphson, and Marion Weber, along with many others who operated in shops as well as in homes.

Ginny Paul and Alice Olson are two operators who presently work out of their homes in St. Peter.

According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee, in 1930 Mrs. Earl (Helen) Miller operated her Tip Top Beauty Shop in the Ludcke complex where the Red Owl parking lot is now located. Her shop was the first shop outside of the home.

The hairdressing license was once issued by the Board of Cosmetology, which is now called Consumer Services of Minnesota Hairdressing and has sure changed from the days when mother would put a curling iron on the chimney of a kerosene lamp to heat the iron to touch up her hair!

Karen's Beauty Shop

Karen Loefler's Beauty Shop at 213 West Nassau is in the building where H. A. Maves had a Barber and Beauty Shop. One could readily read the sign on the west wall 'Maves Barber Shop' until Karen replaced the wall a few years ago.

Bob West operated a barbershop in the front with a beauty shop in the rear separated by a partition. Ruby Carlson and Vi Norman, who later had their own shops, were employed by Bob for a number of years.

Karen, a Le Sueur County native, graduated from Mankato Beauty School and purchased the business from Norma Jean Gehrke Braun. Today, Karen has four part-time operators on her staff. Karen, a lover of music, sings with the Mankato Area Sweet Adelines chorus, which recently sang at the Chamber's Farm City Banquet.

Fashion Corner Salon

The Fashion Corner Salon, located at 115 South Minnesota Avenue, is owned and operated by Carol Burg and Peggy Gappa. Carol, a native of Le Sueur, graduated from the Mankato School of Cosmetology in 1966. Peggy, a cousin of the late Nancy Anton, hails from the Nicollet vicinity and graduated from Willmar Vo-Tech in 1972.

Carol and Peggy, having worked in other shops, opened their own in 1975 in the rear of the Governors Five building where the Video ShowKase is now located.

In 1978, Carol and Peggy moved to their present quarters upon purchasing the building occupied by Janni's Montgomery Ward.

Mary Campbell, Cindy Dahn, Mary Thompson, Mary Ditschler, and Char Kamps are the other operators.

The Hair Hut

Diane Krohn Steiner, a St. Peter native, is the owner and operator of the Hair Hut, located in the Steiner building (formerly Martin Real Estate), at 510 South Minnesota Avenue. Diane's husband, Dean, occupies the front for his real estate business, while Diane uses the back quarters.

Diane, a graduate of the Ritter Beauty College in Mankato, was employed in another beauty parlor before going on her own in 1977. Diane also owns the Hair Hut Gallery in Henderson. Her operators in Henderson include Linda Haupt and Arlene Turensky. Barb Frey, a graduate of Willmar Vo-Tech, assists Diane in the shop in St. Peter.

The Hair Hut is also equipped with two tanning-beds, which Diane describes as a "safe alternate to the sun".

ne Cuttery

Keith Kreft, a native of Vesta, decided at an early age to be a hairstylist. Upon graduation from Wabasso High School, he rolled at Stewart's School of Hairstyling in Sioux Falls. Upon completion of his courses, he was employed at the Prime Cut Dinkytown on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

In 1983, Keith, being impressed with St. Peter, moved into the historic three-story C. A. Johnson building at 217 South nnesota Avenue, once occupied by Joan's Magic Mirror shop. The painted sign can still be seen on the side of the C. A. nson building that reads C. A. Johnson's & Occidental Flour.

Keith says his business is evenly divided between men and women. Besides hairstyling, Keith does ear piercing and cently installed a tannery that gives off less than 3 percent ultraviolet rays.

Lori Schoeppner and Linda Czech of Little Falls, who will soon be married, assist Keith.

oan's Magic Mirror

Joan's Magic Mirror is owned and operated by Joan Joosten, formerly of the Cleveland and Kasota area. The business, cated at 1620 North Minnesota Avenue, is not too far from where the historic Treaty of Traverse des Sioux was signed in 51.

Joan was employed eight years at Bill's Ace and Don's Ace Hardware and Appliance prior to enrolling at the Johnson eauty Academy in Mankato.

Her first beauty parlor was located in the Konsbruck building on Third Street. She then purchased Rosella Schafer's usiness and moved into the building now occupied by Keith Kreft.

In 1982, Joan moved to the present location, where Ray Block, Ella Traxler, and Le Ann Meyer work, along with Joan, at e four stations.

anel's Style House

Janel's, owned by Margaret Mayer, is located at 122 West Nassau. Eddie Engesser once owned the building where the neis Plumbing Shop and the Lange Dairy had their operations. Leo and Evie Runkle later purchased the building and sold it Margaret Mayer.

Margaret is a graduate of Shanley High School in Fargo, North Dakota and St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester. ollowing her marriage 25 years ago, she was employed at St. Joseph's and at the State Hospital.

Marge became interested in the wiggery business for Janel's, a national chain, which at one time had 50 outlets. The usiness was so successful that she had seven saleswomen covering southern Minnesota, eastern South Dakota, and orthern Iowa.

Many of her customers who came to Janel's from Mankato encouraged her to reopen the Campus Barber Shop at ankato State University. Marge reopened the shop under the name of Campus Unicut with Sharon Poncin as manager.

Marge continues her full time employment at the St. Peter Regional Center as an R. V. Administrator at MVSAC.

The hairdressers at Janel's are manager Diane Gleason, Teresa Baker, Shelly Fahning, Roxanne Renne, and Carole ennedy.

Music comes naturally with Marge. Her father earned his living writing music for plays and operas while her mother was professional singer and director for St. Mary's Cathedral Choir in Fargo. Marge has been the director of the St. Peter atholic Church choir since 1950, writing several original compositions. She was the first female to join the famous St. Peter ovenaires Drum and Bugle Corps. She has served on the Corps' board of directors and has been the Drum Major for arades and concerts for the past three years.

Her husband, Pat, whom she met at a parade in Shakopee, has been with the Corps over 25 years. Children Michael (who is a student at Mankato State University), John, and Molly, played in the Drum Corps and sang in the choir with Pat.

This appeared in the January 31, 1985 St. Peter Herald.

Swedberg's Snyder Drugs
Serving A Second Generation In St. Peter

Bob Swedberg, a native of Wolf Point, Montana, was a pharmacist at John Thro's Drugs in Mankato upon graduation from the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy.

In 1955, Bob and his wife, Kathy, purchased the Schaefer Brothers (Pete and John) business and building at 324 South Minnesota Avenue upon the death of John, the pharmacist. The Schaefer brothers' store, prior to Swedberg's was reminiscent of the year it was built-1879.

The Swedbergs lived above the store for a year and a half before leasing the quarters to Dr. A. Henry Thompson for his medical offices. Dr. A. Henry, in 1963, moved his practice to the new medical building at 206 West Walnut Street, when he and dentists Dr. R. E. Larson and Dr. Joe M. Dobie built the new facility.

Swedberg's, with a growing business, added 1,400 square feet to the existing building in 1968, making a total floor space of 3,000 square feet.

In 1971, Bob further improved the historic building with a new front and colonial brick entry approach.

Bob, in 1978, leased the building to Bud Braun for his department store while Bud leased his store to Bridal Manor, now Sue Cook's Bridal Boutique.

In 1977, the Swedbergs took a giant step by purchasing the old Buick garage at the corner of Park Row and Third Street from Jim Randolph's Chevrolet. The garage was demolished for a new 7,000 square foot modern building and parking lot.

The old garage once was a livery stable owned by W. A. Pell in 1876–the historic place where he traded horses with the infamous Jesse James the day before the Northfield Bank robbery.

Bob's son, Gary, a 1975 graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy, who apprenticed for 13 years under his father's tutelage, became co-owner of the business in 1977.

The business today has 19 employees who service and sell thousands of items from the well-stocked store.

In his 30 years as a St. Peter businessman, Bob has had the concern and welfare of the community in his heart. Being interested in photography, he has put together a slide and audio presentation, "The Story of St. Peter", that received the "Cities Alive" award in 1970. The presentation has been periodically updated with Ken Lundberg, manager of KRBI, as narrator.

The organizations Bob has been active in, or served in, include the City Council, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Retail Council (one of the organizers), First Lutheran Church Council, Community Hospital Commission, Nicollet County Bank Board (10 years), Lions Club (20 years), Nicollet Lodge #54 (Masons), United Way Board, Red Cross, Junior and Senior High School Addition Committees, the latest being the Indoor Swimming Pool and Theater Committee.

Professionally, Bob belongs to the Minnesota State Pharmacy Association, Blue Earth Pharmacy Society (Past President), National Association of Retail Druggists, and the Pharmaceutical Association.

Bob, in reminiscing, said some of the best businessmen still in business when he came to St. Peter 30 years ago are Leon Bunde, Miles Lunak, Leighton Swenson, Clarry Veith, Roy Hawkins, Leo Runkle, Stan Davis, Rollie Neils, and Charles Brinker.

St. Peter can be proud of the Niemans (Don and Dave), Swensons (Leighton Jr. and Sr.), Janni (Tom Sr., Tom Jr.), Davis an and Mark), Dahleen (Drs. Robert Sr. and Jr.), Hermel (Howard, John, and Dave), Swedberg (Bob and Gary), Dr. E.G. manson (Don and Vern), father and son business partnerships.

axidermists Never Run Out Of Stuff To Do

orth American Taxidermy

Tom Merkley's North American Taxidermy business is located in downtown St. Peter at 120 Nassau Street on the land, cording to the abstract, that goes back to 1854 when St. Peter was founded.

Matt Michels, who operated a livery stable in the quarters, once owned the building, purchased by Tom's father, Dr. M. Merkley in 1940 for his veterinarian office.

Tom's great grandfather, Charles Rucks from Arlington, and Dr. M. E. remodeled the west side of the three-portion ilding for Dr. M. E. Merkley's offices.

The hayloft of the building was converted into living quarters, where Tom lived until he was two years old. The middle ction of the building was where Carlson Shoe Repair was once and was later occupied by Ralph Keltgen's radiator shop. . Merkley housed his rock shop in the building also. The Greenig brothers used the east section for a sports shop for a ne.

The taxidermy business grew like Topsy, making it necessary for Tom to use the entire downstairs for his profession.

Tom's interest in taxidermy began at the age of 12 when it became evident that biology was his favorite subject. Tom, a aduate of St. Peter High School, pursued his education at Mankato State University, where he received his B. S. degree in 66 and his master's degree at the same school in 1968, while teaching in the biology department.

In 1969-1970, Tom enrolled at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, to work on his doctorate. Tom returned to St. ter in 1970, and in the same year, opened his taxidermy business in the present quarters, which he owns.

Tom chose the name North American Taxidermy because it has a broader connotation, symbolic of where the animals me from. Tom says his taxidermy business is misconstrued by some as a taxicab or an income-tax business, which he ants no part of.

While Tom enjoys mounting all game, the majority of his work is white tail deer, walleyes, and ducks. Some of the life- e animals he has mounted include elk, moose, and bear. The moose are as large as Clydesdale horses that pull the dweiser beer wagon.

He has also mounted life-size musk ox, found in the Arctic Circle, Alaska, Canada, and Norway. Presently, Tom is ounting a Barbary sheep, the breed originally from Iran, but shot in Spain. Soon, Tom will be mounting two life-size Ibex oats.) This species of goat is considered by hunters as the number one trophy in Europe.

Although many of Tom's trophies are at the shop, his most highly prized are in his 20 by 30-foot trophy room in his use.

Tom's ambition is to shoot a desert big horn sheep and a Polar bear to complete his grand slam. Then he will have all big game animals in North America, a goal of all big-game hunters.

Locally, the big-game hunters are Don Gardner and son Chuck, which is evident by the trophies in the Gardner home. Keltgen and Jim Burg, formerly of St. Peter and now living in Alaska, are big-game hunters who send animals to Tom for ounting.

Well-known people who apprenticed under Tom include Charles Rucks, now a veterinarian in Kaukauna, Wisconsin; Jeff Krueger, presently a taxidermist in Deer River; Brian Cartenson, a deputy sheriff in Blue Earth County; Paul Olmanson, a deputy sheriff in the St. Cloud area; and the late Blair Davis.

Tom's son, Troy, although interested in animals, is studying mass communications at Mankato State University, while working as a night manager of the Prime Rate Motel near North Mankato.

Tom, who has hunted extensively in North America, is a popular speaker with slides of his accomplishments at Rotary, Lions, and other clubs.

Wildlife Taxidermy

Dale Selby, an avid hunter since the age of nine, has his taxidermy shop at 221 Cedar Street in Nicollet. Dale, who started his business in 1972, operates out of a 40 by 60-foot main building and a 30 by 30-foot storage and garage.

Dale, who hunted with his father, the late Bob Selby, remembers shooting his first deer in Montana with a bow and arrow at the age of 14. Since then, Dale has hunted all over Alaska, Northwest Territory, and British Columbia.

Dale displays three moose among his trophies, his best being a caribou, shot in North Quebec with a rack score of seventh in the world. A member of the Bowbenders Club of Mankato and Rochester Archery Club, he enjoys doing most of his hunting with a bow and arrow.

Dale, a graduate of Nicollet High School, learned most of his business by watching and listening to a fellow taxidermist in Wisconsin and learning new techniques by attending national taxidermy conventions. The past convention was held in Atlanta, where he took third in the world for his life-size black bear.

His employee, Jeff Holmin, a Nicollet native, walked off with a second and third in the amateur class for his work on a wood duck, pheasant, and raccoon.

In a year's time, Dale will mount 100 fish, 125 deer, bear, antelope, and 75 birds (mostly wood ducks and pheasants.) Presently, Dale says it takes 90 days to service fish and birds and six months for big game. The skins are dried and salted at this Nicollet shop before being sent to California for the tannery process.

According to Dale, 80 percent of his business is from the local area. The remainder comes from customers in Alaska, Canada, Iowa, and South Dakota. Dale says quality workmanship is the key to his profession with attention given to fine details to improve his work, which he stands behind 100 percent. The use of super photos and a death mask (casting a mask from a freshly killed animal) have been a great aid in his mounting. Dale's wife, Donna, answers calls and takes care of details, thus freeing him for more time with his profession.

Dale, who has won ribbons in state, national, and world competition, doesn't allow any of his work to go out of the shop that he would not display in his personal trophy room.

This appeared in the April 11, 1985 St. Peter Herald.

Four Seasons Floor Covering

The Four Seasons floor covering business, owned and operated by Ron and Dayna (wife) Johnson, is located at 212 South Minnesota Avenue in beautiful downtown St. Peter.

The portion of the building where the floor covering business is now located was built by Andy and Grace Cook in 1923 on property purchased from B. F. Paul.

In 1929, the Cooks purchased the lots to the north and erected a $53,000.00 building with the main floor leased to the J. C. Penney Company, followed by Skogmo's and the Johnson brothers, Ron and Dave.

The Johnson brothers purchased the Cook building from John and Sue Cook in 1981. The basement under the 1929 part s known as the "Cookie Jar" where the Rotary and Lions Club met and held their social parties. The catacomb booths der the sidewalk can still be readily seen.

Ron, while a senior in the 1974 St. Peter High School class, apprenticed under C. E. (Pete) and Anita Pedersen, former ners of Skogmo's Department Store.

The Johnson brothers purchased the business from the retiring Pedersens on January 1 of 1978. Ron and Dave sold the l merchandise in preparation for remodeling the 1929 addition.

In May of the same year, the brothers opened their new store, the Brothers Four Seasons, carrying ready-to-wear othing, shoes, bedding, towels, domestics, men's wear, children's apparel, floor covering, and sundry items.

During the early months of 1983, the Johnsons made plans for a mini-mall in the 1929 addition for a new and interesting owntown Revitalization Business Area. The brothers sold the merchandise except for the floor covering in readiness for the ill concept, which is presently in the embryonic stage.

The Johnsons, who are very handy craftsmen, remodeled and re-furnished the two apartments and 15 rooms in the ilding, which are leased out by the month.

In March of 1985, Ron and Dayna purchased Dave's share in the business when Dave became an investment and surance consultant for Prudential Bache Insurance & Investment Company for the St. Peter area.

On March 3, 1985, Ron and Dayna moved the floor covering business into the old restaurant quarters that was occupied three generations of the Cooks and other occupants.

In their newly remodeled showroom, the Johnsons display all the new designs in floor covering, carpet, linoleum, ramic tile, and wood floors. Also displayed are many books of wallpaper, drapes, mini-blinds, woven woods, shades, and rtical blinds, offering the St. Peter area a full service decorating store.

Ron does all of his own decorating and installing to assure the customers of the best of care coming from 12 years of perience.

Ron's wife, Dayna, tends the store waiting on the customers to show them all the designs that will meet their dreams d expectations.

This past month, the Johnsons, with many other businesses, celebrated the most grand openings in the memory of this iter.

Ron and Dayna invite all to visit and share with them their new, exciting showroom.

ood Food And Service re Goals For Hardee's, Country Kitchen

ardee's

The North Central Food Systems, Inc. was formed in 1972 by four incorporators with Hardee's as the licensee.

The St. Peter operation, known as Sandy's, was opened on August 5, 1972, three days after the first restaurant opened in ribault. Today, the corporation has 52 stores mostly in the Midwest.

Hardee's, located at 1221 South Minnesota Avenue (where seven houses once stood) was first managed by Pat Tomczik oyd and Ceil Headlee's son-in-law). Pat was succeeded by Vince Hogden, who managed until three years ago, when Ken hugel took over the managerial duties.

Ken, a graduate of New Ulm Cathedral High School and Mankato Vo-Tech, became the St. Peter manager after serving several stores before arriving from Mason City, Iowa.

In 1979, Hardee's expanded by building a new structure with seating capacity of 122 people and parking stalls for 70 vehicles. The old building was sold to Wandersee Florists, whose operation is near Hermel's Candy and Tobacco Company on the outskirts of Mankato.

Ken said, "Hardee's lost but one day of business during the transition from the old to the new building".

Fifty full and part-time employees handle over a thousand orders a day, serving up to 35 items. Hardee's assistant managers are Linda Attenberger of Kasota and Terry Marks of Sleepy Eye.

Ken is excited about the expected increase in traffic with the Twins, Vikings, Minnesota Zoo, Valley Fair, State Fair, North Stars, and University of Minnesota activities on the upswing. When Canterbury Downs opens this June, he expects the sales in the St. Peter store to reach the $1 million mark.

The success of the business is service, good food, and especially the morale of the employees. Many of the employees, when off duty will come voluntarily to help out when they see the traffic from people going to the State Capitol, Shrine Circus, field trips, and people attending the many activities at Gustavus Adolphus College. One time, nine busloads of students arrived at the same time and were served in record time. Many of the students come in singing the Hardee's commercials.

Ken stated that "this July the char-broilers will be replaced in favor of flat burners for the sake of expediency".

Hardee's have been known for their participation in local projects, especially the sponsorship of bowling and softball teams.

With all the activity that Ken is involved in, one can understand why he remains St. Peter's most eligible bachelor.

Country Kitchen

The St. Peter Country Kitchen located on the north side, stands on land where corn and watermelons grew 40 years ago.

The building was built in 1970-1971 and managed by Karl Tesch until 1974.

Roger Block operated the business until 1983 and the Twin City management ran the operation until 1984.

Randy Gustafson, in 1984, became Vice president of Sales and Promotions until January 1, when he became president of the now locally owned and operated Country Kitchen.

The St. Peter operation employs 35 full-time and part-time employees with Dennis Olson of Marshall as general manager. The assistant manager is Krist Kranz. Mike Jaycox, a St. Peter native, as is Krist, is apprenticing for an assistant managerial job.

Improvements during the past few years include a new entry, a fireplace, and landscaping. The enlarged building now seats 122 people.

Randy, a St. Peter native, graduated from St. Peter High School in 1970 and spent two years in the U. S. Marine Corps. In 1976, Randy graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and completed his schooling by attending Mankato State University, where he received his master's degree in 1981.

For the past eight years, Randy has been teaching physical education in the Vernon Center-Rapidan School District. He has coached football and basketball, and has officiated all major sports for 11 years as a certified official by the Minnesota State High School League.

Randy's wife, Judy (Meyer), also a St. Peter native, worked as a waitress for Country Kitchen under Karl Tesch and ger Block. Today, Judy is the bookkeeper for the local store.

Recently, Randy conducted a survey as to what the customer wants in a family restaurant and they are now putting ether a new menu accordingly. This was a first for the 259 Country Kitchen restaurants.

The local restaurant supports different programs at St. Peter High school (sports and academics) and is involved in ing money for the Special Olympics.

Recently, Randy has framed sketches of historic buildings, which are on display in the entryway.

Several Chamber of Commerce speakers including Charles Boone, Roger Erickson, Mark Dayton, and Carl Pohlad nmented about their names being on the Country Kitchen marquee helping to promote St. Peter.

st Food Is Way Of Life In St. Peter

ntucky Fried Chicken

Kentucky Fried Chicken, owned and operated by Larry and Sue Reich, is located at 1630 South Minnesota Avenue on foothills of the once beautiful State Hospital pasture.

Larry, after graduating from Austin High School, attended Austin and Rochester Vo-Tech schools before attending a cial Kentucky Fried Training school in Louisville, Kentucky.

Larry spent three years in the service, training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Benning, orgia before being sent to Vietnam and Germany.

From 1969 to 1979, Larry managed Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Hopkins, and nnetonka before purchasing the St. Peter Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In 1980, the dining room was redecorated and booths were installed to seat 42 people. Further improvements were de in 1981 when the drive-through was added to the operation.

Extensive exterior remodeling was completed in 1983 with the removal of the cupola and placement of a new image nsard roof.

The catering service has grown with the business since 1979 with organizations, clubs, wedding receptions, and picnics ng the service. The largest catering was done for Cargills when 1,600 people were served.

The Reichs stay abreast in the business world by attending Kentucky Fried Chicken conventions in Las Vegas, New eans, and Hawaii.

In 1983, the Reichs won the 5 Star Operators Award for excellence in total business operation awarded by Kentucky ed Chicken.

The St. Peter Kentucky Fried Chicken store in 1984 was awarded the QSC 100 Award for averaging a 100 score on three nsecutive quarterly corporate inspections for Quality, Service, and Cleanliness.
ry, the manager, and Sue, the bookkeeper, have 15 employees with Berrisford Elliott as assistant manager.

The March of Dimes was the late Colonel Sanders' favorite charity. Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants nationally and Reichs locally support the March of Dimes with the store canister donations.

Larry and Sue personally made a contribution to the March of Dimes for every chicken item sold over the Memorial Day ekend.

The Reichs are community-minded, with sponsorships of bowling and softball teams. Larry presently is the committee chairman of the Jaycees and softball association new concession stand and restroom project being rebuilt on Jefferson Field.

McDonald's

McDonald's, noted for their golden arches, is located on St. Peter's north side on Highway 169 and St. Julien Street. The St. Peter McDonald building is but three furlongs from the historic Traverse des Sioux treaty site where 35 Indian chiefs in 1851 turned over 24 million acres of land to the U. S. Government for 16 cents an acre.

McDonald's opened in 1980 and was first managed by Connie Mettler, who presently operates the McDonald's operatior on Highway 169 on the south side of Mankato.

Ken Fischer, a native of Searles, is a graduate of New Ulm Cathedral High School and South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy.

In 1958, Ken was in the Medical Service Corps at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he was the Chief Pharmacy Officer, providing care for the Air Force Academy military and retired military.

Ken, upon returning from the service, was a pharmacist for Swedberg's before he and his wife, Charlotte, owned their own drug store for four years. They sold the business and purchased McDonald's.

Before becoming a McDonald's owner, Ken was screened by six corporate managers and completed 1,000 hours of on-the-job training. He attended schooling in Minneapolis and Hamburger University in Chicago.

In 1983, Ken added St. Peter to his ownership. Today, Dan Drage manages the St. Peter McDonald's, with 48 part-time and full-time employees. The present facility has seating for 80 customers.

Ken, an avid sports fan and supporter, is involved in sponsorship of many youth programs and Special Olympics.

The highlight of Ken's career was when his two sons played on the New Ulm American Legion team that won the state and regional baseball titles in 1978 and played in the American Legion World Series in Yakima, Washington.

Ken frequently shows a slide presentation of the Ronald McDonald House. The House is within walking distance of our Twin City Hospitals that treat young cancer patients.

Recently, a "Big Mac Day" was held at Gustavus Adolphus College with the sum of $500.00 being turned over to the Ronald McDonald House.

Ken is proud that he owns two of the 8,000 thousand restaurants that in the past 30 years have sold 50 billion hamburgers.

Dairy Queen And Sugar 'n Spice Cafe

Dairy Queen Brazier

The Dairy Queen operation in St. Peter is located at 850 North Minnesota Avenue and was originally founded by Arnie and Elsie Severson in 1951.

The Seversons sold the business to the late Forest (Frosty) and Winifred Chapman of Worthington, Minnesota, who leased the business and building to Larry Zimmerman for the year of 1970.

Mel and Carol Werth became the new owners in 1971 and purchased the Quick Stop building two blocks south, from Bob and Mathilda Campbell, where they moved the Dairy Queen operation after extensive remodeling. The Blooms of Dick's Sports Center presently own the old Dairy Queen property.

In 1978, the Werths sold the operation to Dave and Colleen Bell, who added a hard ice cream line and increased the of the hamburgers from ten per pound to six per pound of meat.

Dave grew up in the food business. His father, Al Bell (a noted semi-professional baseball pitcher) and his mother, Ruth, ned and operated the Topic Cafe and Bell's Hamburgers in Mankato. Upon graduation from Mankato High School, Dave nt from 1966 to 1969 in the Army before attending Mankato State University for two years.

From 1976 to 1978, Dave owned and operated a restaurant in Battle Lake.

A physical change was made to the Dairy Queen building in 1983 with a new, modern drive-through window.

New items recently added to the Dairy Queen menu are the Chipper Sandwich, Chili Dog, Banana Split, Double Delight, l the popular Blizzard. The Blizzard has been recently resurrected with a few added flavors that have taken the country storm.

Dave's wife, Colleen, although caring for sons, Chris, John, and Matt, still puts in time at the Dairy Queen operation. The ls have 14 part-time employees on the payroll.

Recently, while on vacation, they received word that a fire damaged the building to the extent of a $15,000.00 to),000.00 loss. The operation was closed until recently.

igar 'n Spice Cafe

The Sugar 'n Spice Cafe at 218 South Minnesota Avenue is located in the historic Burg building, owned by Alan and ita Grue.

In September of 1982, Cheryl Walter and sister Mary Hix purchased the Cafe business from the Grues and they operate Cafe as a separate entity from the Grues' bakery.

Mary and Cheryl, after graduating from Mankato West High School, apprenticed in the food and catering business at cle Albert's Cafe in their hometown of Eagle Lake.

The catering business has expanded rapidly, covering the St. Clair, Norseland, Le Sueur, Traverse, and Lake Washington a. The largest group the sisters catered to date was 440 people in the St. Clair area.

Since taking over the operation, the sisters have added a full meal to their menu to compliment their full breakfast and stry goods.

Cheryl and Willie Walter have two girls, Jennifer (10) and Anne (8). Mary and Greg Hix are also parents of two ighters, Kristi (8) and Kate (6 months).

Cheryl says the business is divided between about 75% local patrons and about 25% highway business.

With Canterbury Downs in full swing, and other events in the area, she expects the highway business to vastly increase.

zza And Tacos Are Popular In St. Peter

The St. Peter area, with a large Scandinavian population, is no longer prominently the land of herring and lutefisk. The er-growing population has adapted to Mexican and Chinese foods, along with their hamburgers, hot dogs, and French-es.

ico John's

Taco John's opened in November 1978 at 103 North Minnesota Avenue, where Louis Haney once had a Cities Service tion for years. Sam Haugdahl operated a service station and was the last to use the present building before its being nodeled for Taco John's and the Farmers Insurance.

John Pfau and Bill Fetter from Mankato were the first owners. John and Bill also own Taco John's in Mankato where the establishment is the 44th Taco John's of the 350 establishments throughout the United States.

Bill Fetter and his wife, Patricia, who employ three full-time and ten part-time employees, now own the St. Peter operation. Bill has enjoyed a 30 percent yearly increase in his business.

Godfather's Pizza

Willie Theisen, the original proprietor of Willie's Bar, created Godfather's Pizza in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1973 the first Godfather's Pizza establishment was opened in Omaha. Today there are approximately 1,000 franchise-owned establishments across the United States. All the franchises use the many toppings that make the Godfather's Pizza so unique.

The St. Peter Godfather's Pizza is located in the historic First National Bank building which was built in 1914 and made of Bedford Stone. When the First National Bank moved to its present quarters, Zona Mans and Janet Leverson moved their "Gannon's Cafe" into the quarters. Later the Cafe was known as the "Bank on the Avenue" restaurant.

The St. Peter store opened up in 1981 and is managed by Dan Diede with Steve Shaw as assistant manager. Godfather's has an additional seven part-time employees on the payroll.

Dan, who grew up in Yankton, South Dakota, was assistant manager at the Fairmont operation before becoming the manager at Brookings, South Dakota, and Sioux City, Iowa, and then heading the St. Peter operation. The historic St. Peter building has a capacity to seat 90 customers.

Godfather's along with its famous crust style, also offers a thin crust. Sandwiches, a 20-item salad bar, side of garlic toast and cheese toast, plus 14 pizza toppings seem to whet the appetites of their many customers.

Domino's Pizza

Domino's Pizza of St. Peter is owned by Kevin and Debra Bores. It is located in the Minnegasco building built by Dr. M. E. Lenander in 1941 for his medical practice.

The St. Peter store is part of the International Domino's Pizza, Inc., that has 2,600 franchise units in 50 states, Canada, Australia, England, and Germany.

The company was founded by Thomas Monoghan in 1960. He still owns and operates the firm. Monoghan also is the owner of the Detroit Tigers, 1984 World Series Champions.

The St. Peter operation opened in November of 1983 and now employs three full-time and ten part-time employees. Most fall into the age range of 18 to 25 years of age. Coke and pizza are the only items handled by Domino's, who claim a 30-minute free delivery from the time you order. If the customer has to wait longer than 30 minutes, there is an automatic discount.

Domino's, a business that is part of the community, offers fund-raising promotions and offers tours to groups so that the public can see first-hand how their pizzas are made.

This appeared in the September 9, 1985 St. Peter Herald.

Chuck Wagon-Nicollet Cafe-Prairie House

Chuck Wagon

Rene Voigt's restaurant is located in the heart of the Cleveland business district at 325 Broadway, across from the People's State Bank.

Felix Biehn, 50, started the family-style cafe years ago. D. D. Hobson, a dynamic Cleveland promoter, with the help of his good wife, Alice, purchased the business in 1937 and operated the business until 1972.

D. D. Hobson, besides being in the cafe business, did his civic duty by spending 45 years on the Cleveland Volunteer e Department and was Justice of the Peace for 25 years. During the past 13 years he has devoted his time to the real ate profession and his hobby of flying.

The cafe building has had several changes inside and out since 1935, thus conforming to all specifications and gulations.

Ginny Miller employed Rene at Grannie's Pizza Parlour before Rene purchased the Chuck Wagon in 1984 from Chuck d Gerri Barrick.

Rene learned to work and cook on the family farm in the Rapidan area, south of Mankato, where she received her hooling. She owns and operates 40 acres near Pettis Station with her son, John, an engineering student at Mankato State iversity. Her daughter Connie (Mrs. Dale Wilson) and husband are parents of Christian and Dunstan.

The Chuck Wagon customers are all ages. The restaurant, which seats 100 people, offers a special kids and senior izens menu.

They employ 11 to 17 people-many with six years or more experience. The customers hail from Cleveland, St. Peter, Le eur, Le Center, and the lake area. Rene said that Cleveland is so friendly that they consider themselves one big family. hen someone is ill or gone, the whole community is concerned. Rene credits her business to all her customers who have en most supportive during the agricultural lull.

icollet Cafe

The Nicollet Cafe, owned by Sonja and Jim Shay, is two doors south of Highway 99 and across the street from the collet State Bank.

The cafe building is owned by Sonja's parents, Fritz and Ardella Froehlich, who own and operate a jewelry/TV/seed re next door.

Sonja's husband, Jim, co-owner, works for the Department of Natural Resources as a building maintenance coordinator erseeing several of the department's 100 buildings.

The cafe, with a seating capacity of 80 people, has seven employees including the Shay family.

Sonja, who has been in the cafe business for three years, sets hours from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and until er dinner on weekends. Similar to most restaurants, Sonja offers specials to the satisfaction of her customers.

Sonja, besides offering the back room of the cafe for meetings, is involved in the catering business. She has catered for eddings, groom's dinners, anniversaries, and meetings within the 30-mile radius.

rairie House

The St. Peter Prairie House Restaurant at 605 South Minnesota Avenue is one of the eleven Prairie House Restaurants cated in Minnesota.

The motto adopted by the corporation is "Minnesota Restaurants for Minnesota People. We Know Minnesotans".

The first Prairie House opened in Dassel in December 1976. The St. Peter Prairie House opened just a year ago and cently enjoyed their first anniversary with an open house.

Bev Campion, present manager, heads up a staff of 21 part-time and full-time workers. The restaurant comfortably seats 6 people. It can seat 50 in a small dining room that can be closed off from the rest of the seating area.

The Prairie House also offers a complete salad bar along with their daily specials.

Bev, although new to St. Peter, is no stranger to the Prairie House operation as she was involved in the Prairie House erations in Hutchinson and Northfield.

Bev chose St. Peter after meeting several Chamber members when they visited Northfield on a business exchange day. Northfield members had visited St. Peter the previous year. Bev said, "St. Peter and Northfield are similar as both are college towns and were selected by an independent survey as the two best college towns to live, in Minnesota".

Chateau Supper Club-Ginny May Donut Shop-Shoops Saloon & Restaurant

Chateau Supper Club

The Chateau Supper Club of Cleveland is located on the corner of Highway 99 and County Road 15, across the street from the historic Dodd military road that runs from Kasota to Mendota.

Ron Prososki and father, Louis, purchased the building from Al Meyer of St. Peter in 1977.

In 1979 the Prososki's acquired a liquor license, replacing the setup and bring-your-own-bottle arrangement.

Ron, in 1980, married Karen Derner (the Ralph Derners' daughter) who also became his business partner when they purchased Ron's parents' interest.

Since purchasing the building, the Prososkis have installed a salad bar and remodeled the interior of the building. The Chateau conveniently seats 235 customers who hail from a radius of 40 miles.

Ron and Karen, with the help of 20 part-time employees, serve grooms' dinners, wedding receptions, class reunions, Shrine meetings, and special parties besides the everyday trade.

Ron, a graduate of McKinley High School, Le Center, was employed at Veen's Super Value for 11 years, where he learned to cut meat. The Prososkis enjoy their work. Ron does most of the cooking (making their own salad and soups), cuts their own steaks and chicken, and washes and deveins their seafood, while Karen bartends and acts as hostess. They finish the day by doing their own cleaning.

Ron, a member of the Le Sueur Pork Producers Association, is an avid supporter of the pork industry and promotes ham, ribs, and pork chops.

Ron and Karen, although busy with the restaurant operation, still find time to enjoy their children, Amy, Rachel, Bradley, and Brian.

Ginny May Donut Shop

The Ginny May Donut Shop, owned by Duane and Virginia Swanson, is located at the corner of Grace Street and Minnesota Avenue in the former Skelly gas station building which was built in 1930. The name, Ginny May, is derived from Virginia's nickname and her middle name.

Duane, a graduate of Mankato High School in 1942, learned the bakery business working for 17 years for Johnson Bakery in North Mankato. Virginia, reared on a small farm near Mankato and a graduate of Mankato Loyola High School, learned the baking business when she was a member of the Peppy Wahoo 4-H Club. In 1940 Virginia and her sister won the state 4-H bread baking championship.

In 1959 the Swansons decided to go into business for themselves by opening Ginny May's in Mankato. Today they have five shops. Sons Kevin and Steve manage the two shops in Mankato. Son Brian who lives with his family a few blocks up the street on Grace Street handles the St. Peter shop. The Red Wing operation has a non-family manager.

Ginny May shops have 54 food items for the customer to choose from. Duane said that they, like most eating places in St. Peter, were extremely busy during the Nobel Conference.

The Swansons are most grateful for the local business and are happy they are on a corner where 18,000 vehicles pass by every day.

oops Saloon and Restaurant

Shoops Saloon and Restaurant at 125 South Third Street, was once the Covell Hospital Building, built by my great uncle, ddie Knoll 100 years ago. The building housed a saloon and mercantile store where my grandmother, Minnie Knoll Pell rked in the dry goods department.

Larry and Vonnie Schuppel opened the Valley Lounge in 1982 after spending time in the bartending business in the in Cities and owning the Time-Out Lounge in Le Sueur.

Shoops seats 180 people. Clientele are served by 12 full and part-time employees. Larry says they specialize in Mexican-erican food, with hamburgers still the favorite among his trade. Entertainment can be found for all ages at Shoops with ol tables, pinball machines, video, and dancing. Friday night is Shoops' best evening, followed by Tuesdays and ursdays.

The Schuppels are community-minded, supporting bowling, softball, and volleyball teams. Larry and Vonnie have lowed their children's (Chad and Kamie) participation in high school sports over the past several years. Larry said they uld like to support more community sports and activities but their insurance costs have tripled in the past year because of e Dram Shop Law.

t. Peter Has A Pair Of Oriental Restaurants

incent's Golden China Restaurant

Vince Wang, a native of Taiwan arrived in the United States in 1978 and enrolled at the University of Florida at inesville, where he received a degree in Food Service in 1980.

Vince left the Sunshine State for the hardy Minnesota climate to pursue his education in Business Administration at ankato State University.

Having opened the Golden China Restaurants in Mankato and Rochester, he acquired the "High Steps" building at 409 uth Minnesota Avenue to expand his enterprise. The "High Steps" was once a tavern with Con Vogt, Harvey Pagel, and ll Young as principal owners and operators It was later owned and operated by the Battigs and the Bodes.

The Golden China remodeled since Vince purchased the building, seats 60 people and has eight full and part-time nployees on the payroll.

Vince offers a variety of dishes with Moo Goo Gai Pan as the favorite of the Chinese foods.

According to Vince, the majority of his business is local people. However, he feels that there is a great potential of stomers in the 18,000 vehicles passing by his door every day.

ew Home Cantonese Restaurant.

The New Home Cantonese Restaurant building is located at 1520 South Minnesota Avenue and was built in 1960 by the e Harold and Laurie Martin, who were the developers of Gardners Court. I remember when the contest was held to name ardners Court, as there were several hundred names to pick from. The now-deceased Professor George Anderson, Norman ault, and yours truly were the judges.

Jake and Lorraine Campbell, from the Welsh area known as Judson, purchased the building and opened the A & W rive-In in 1960. Tsz Keung Lo, his wife Nu Ho Lo, and daughters Shu Wen Lo and Shu Yi, are now owners of the staurant.

The Lo family had an unbelievable experience before arriving in the United States. In 1958, Tsz escaped from Taiwan on fishing boat bound for Hong Kong, China. In 1974, he arrived in the United States as a refugee and accepted a job as a ef at the St. Paul Hotel, the Robert Lee restaurant in Minnetonka, and later the Mai Tai.

In 1979, Tsz sent for the rest of the family, who settled in Minnetonka where Shu attended high school.

The family came here from Buffalo where they have the House of Lo Restaurant and are enjoying a thriving business operated by Shu's sister Shu Yi.

The St. Peter building was completely remodeled before re-opening with the latest stainless steel equipment installed.

Shu said she was most thankful for the help, aid, and assistance by the Campbells, Santelmans, and Jack Leverson for installing the coolers and readying the building for business. Shu says, although the Chinese-American restaurant offers a variety of Chinese dishes, one can obtain the traditional hamburgers and french fries.

Shu's goal is to make the New Home Restaurant as busy as when the Campbells owned and operated the A & W Drive-In.

This appeared in the January 6, 1985 St. Peter Herald.

Bars And Liquor Establishments

Embassy Bar

The Embassy Bar at 325 South Minnesota Avenue is located in one of the oldest buildings in St. Peter, "the Williamsburg of the Midwest". The stone two-story building was built for William Schimmel in 1860 who used the structure for a warehouse and elevator. Horsepower elevated the grain to various parts of the building.

A. J. "Tony" Rost purchased the building for a jewelry store, and later his son Charles, whom many of us knew, operated Rost Harness Shop in the same building.

Attorney A. L. "Mac" McConville purchased the building for an investment and used the upstairs for his law offices and apartments.

Joe Lynam and "Monk" Longstien owned and operated the L & L Cafe at that location before selling it to the late Bob Schuveiller who sold to Nick Colin's folks. The Colins, being proud of their Irish heritage, changed the name of the cafe to the Shamrock.

Deac Staples opened a liquor store in the building and when he suddenly passed away, his son Ray operated the business until selling to Vern Derner and Valerie Bloomquist. Vern sold his interest to Keith Keogh. In 1963 Dick Myhra became Keith's partner when he purchased Valerie's interest in the business.
Melvin "Rusty" Redning and Mike Rambo purchased the bar in 1978. Mike, after a short stint in the business, sold to Rusty and moved to Florida-the Sunshine State.

The Embassy is open seven days a week, and besides offering refreshments and food, has a pool table for the enjoyment of its patrons. Rusty is sports-minded and sponsors men's and women's softball and bowling teams, broomball, two pool teams, and a dart team.

Rusty employs ten people, who with Rusty, are looking forward to another St. Patrick's Day celebration, which is one of the best business days of the year for the liquor establishments.

In 1983 Norm Kollman purchased the Embassy building from the McConville estate, and being a contractor, did extensive exterior and second-floor interior renovation. His contribution for the restoration of the building is a boost toward the "Downtown Revitalization" Main Street project.

Haney's Bar

Haney's Bar, owned and operated by Ben "Gump" Lyons, is at the corner of Grace Street (the Fort Road) and Third Street. The building was first owned by the Hohnemann family a century ago and was a bar and rooming house.

Julius Berndt and William "Coffee" Tolan operated the business and then "Coffee" sold to Jack and Lizzie Rheaume in 26. In the mid-1930's, Jack put an addition on the north side where the pool tables are now. The basement under the ginal building was excavated by hand with the late Russell "Rasty" Mead and several of his cronies wheeling the dirt to Grace Street side of the building for disposal.

Jack and Lizzie operated the bar until 1946 when Jules Haney and nephews Bob Frazier and the late Roy Haney rchased the business. Bob left shortly for California and Jules sold his interest to Roy and Shirley Haney. Shirley became sole owner of the building and, upon Roy's passing, sold the bar to Terry Stark.

In 1983 Gump and wife Rae purchased Terry Stark's interest in the business. Gump is a native of North Mankato where and Rae grew up and attended school. Gump established himself as a hockey and softball player in state amateur circles playing with the North Mankato Vikings when they won the state amateur title for three years. Gump joined the Air Force 1946 and enjoyed his seven years in the service playing softball and hockey in Germany, Switzerland, England, and stria.

Upon returning from the service, Gump participated in sports. With eight children, however, he finally gave up rticipating to spend more time with his family. Gump is no stranger to St. Peter and southern Minnesota and enjoys his ends and customers.

Many card games have been played at Haney's over the years and now the customers can also enjoy his lunches. Gump d Rae come with many years experience in the food and bar business as they once owned the Stahl House in "Old wne" Mankato.

ne Flame Bar

Ben Fallenstein opened the Flame Bar at 225 Nassau Street, in the heart of the business district, in 1947.

Ben was a former partner of Ernie Marschal in what was known as Ben and Ernie's Bar and Lounge. The bar was cated in the former Odd Fellows building, now owned by Dan and Dorothy Schlenker where they own and operate Dan's rdware Hank.

Ben was followed by several single and partnership owners including John Jensen, Fran Kren, Gene Fissette, Bill Lager ger's Auto), Jim Rheaume and Pat Hix, Bob Geldner, Jr. and Bob McGinn, Dick Hager, and present owner and operator bert Emmanuel Nyman.

Bob, a native St. Peterite, gained his experience by working as bar manager at the Holiday House from 1961 through 84 with a short stint at the Le Sueur House prior to entering into the business for himself.

The Flame, built in 1947, stands on the land that was once a loading dock and driveway for the Model Dairy owned by late Chet Rasmussen. The American Legion Club (William R. Witty Post #37) purchased the Model Dairy and the land rth from Chet for the post. The Flame building contains 1800 square feet and comfortably seats 170 people.

Six full and part-time employees assist Bob in the operation. They find Neighborfest, Gustavus Homecoming, St. trick's Day, and New Year's Eve the busiest times of the year.

Jim Rheaume, onetime owner, credits the Flame as having the first piano bar in St. Peter with the well-known Zoe (Mrs. nn) Hergert at the keys.

Bob and wife, Cathy (Conlon), are the parents of Tim, 10, and Becky, 8.

ena's Traverse Cafe Is Hub of Downtown

Vena's Traverse Cafe, three miles northwest of St. Peter on Nicollet County Highway #15, is located on University enue and Elevator Lane, the busiest intersection in downtown Traverse. A twin parking meter and a fire hydrant identify hamlet of Traverse. Excluding the university, it has a population of no more than ten residents. Vena Parsons, the cafe oprietor and school's chancellor, reports that the population is subject to change on any given day.

Traverse lays claim to being the birthplace of John A. Johnson, Minnesota's first governor actually born in Minnesota. Governor Johnson was born in a log cabin located a mile northwest of the Traverse Town Hall in 1861.

In ages past, the School District No. 3 building, the Town Hall (new one), the Traverse Elevator, and the old General Store were the centers of educational, cultural, and recreational activities. The General Store was where farmers could buy anything from International Harvester or McCormick-Deering parts to candy (which Ardyce Thompson Worrell's father dealt out in generous proportions.) Today Vena's Cafe, or the University of Traverse, is the forum where international, national, state, and local problems are discussed. Indeed, a great many of these problems are discussed in her Political Science class.

I visited Vena's on St. Patrick's Day and found 20 of her customers wearing green. I didn't know if it was a Pioneer Corn sales meeting or a John Deere implement open house.

Vena, an Oshawa native, became a Traverse resident after teaching in Goodwin, S. D., working as a bookkeeper and secretary in Claremont, and working as a linotype operator and later as an elevator manager in New Ulm. Her husband, the late Mahlon "Mutt" Parsons, was a depot agent. In 1965 the Parsons returned to Traverse, from whence Mutt came, and took over the Traverse Cafe from Alta Yost Morrison.

Many people, I am sure, remember Mutt along with Don Hergert and Percy Wolfe (also from the Traverse area) playing on St. Peter's undefeated football team in 1929. Upon Mutt's passing in 1969, Vena became sole owner and operator of the cafe.

Traverse claimed three natives who played on the St. Peter American Legion baseball team that went to the state tournament in 1933: Ray Hergert, Bill Wettergren, and Bud Wettergren. The story goes that when the team checked into the hotel, the bellboy wanted to carry Bud's luggage. Bud thought he was trying to steal his bags and was ready to challenge the bellboy.

Believe it or not, Vena's garage is the old tile factory that was two rods from the once Chicago-Northwestern railroad tracks that abutted Willow Lawn Creamery and Traverse Elevator.

Speaking of the elevator, the darkest night was August 21, 1937 when the elevator burned to the ground. Like the phoenix, the elevator rose from the ashes and today the elevator is considering another expansion.

While I was observing her class of 20 students I noted that Vena, the former teacher, reprimanded a well-known farmer for chewing Wintergreen. Another student was called on the carpet for smoking at an unauthorized table. Upon looking over the customers, I remembered that we were brought up in the days of the Katzenjammer Kids, Barney Google, Gasoline Alley, and Dick Tracy. It seems natural that her students read the comics along with the daily stock market reports.

Vena said her students don't use computers as they can tell you in a split second about the Dow-Jones average.

Dr. Art Glass, a St. Peter native, is retiring from nearly 40 years on the Gustavus faculty. Art says that, because he has good rapport with Jim Weisgerber the PR man at the university and being from a circus family (the Engessers), he should be able to handle the presidency of the university.

This summer Glen Gilbertson, a Traverse native and world traveler now residing in Honolulu, will be teaching a crash course in geography for the summer session. Vena has one student that believes the world is flat.

Vena said that Jim Weisberger, former editor of the St. Peter Herald, has printed over 200 University of Traverse diplomas; they have found homes in Germany, Bangladesh, England, Japan, Guyana, and many more countries throughout the world.

Vena said the friendship, loyalty, and respect shown her by her customers is worth more than all the money she could ever hope for.

This appeared in the April 7, 1986 St. Peter Herald.

ea Boasts Four Resort, Vacation Spots

eaver Dam Resort

Beaver Dam Resort, six miles from Cleveland, is located on German Lake and Lake Jefferson, two of the largest lakes in thern Minnesota, with German being 899 acres and Jefferson 2,318 acres.

The Germans, anxious to find a crossing between the lakes to facilitate trading, transportation, and communications, re confronted with a beaver's dam. A corduroy road consisting of heavy logs were dragged into place by oxen to provide base. Today a channel under the road connects the two lakes.

The Beaver Dam Lodge, built by George Bauer in 1912, was owned and operated by Frank and Mickey Shultis from 33 to 1945. Most of the entire area was called Beaver Dam and owned by John Hardegger. Incidentally, the first rdegger Hotel was partially on the land where Dr. Burton P. and Ruth Grimes have their home.

In 1945 Garett Notebloom operated the Beaver Dam Lodge before selling it to Chris and Margaret Hoffmann the lowing year. The senior Hoffmans, with the assistance of their sons Chris, Jr. and Burt, operated the lodge until selling to on and Barb Super of Evansville, Indiana. Burt Hoffmann recalls the many meetings that were held there during his rents' ownership.

In 1973, upon the passing of Leon, Barb sold it to daughter Sandie and her husband, Eddie Bisek.

The popular eating and dining place came to an end in 1978 when the roof over the bar and dining room collapsed m heavy snow. Since 1978, the lodge and motel have been removed to make way for a swimming pool, shower house, a me room for campers, a bar, and an office.

The Biseks' complex, besides facilities for 100 campers, includes 19 cabins, 40 boats, three pontoon boats, and a line of tors that can be rented.

Customers are able to purchase fishing licenses, bait, groceries, Stewart Sandwiches, and refreshments.

The resort is a family operation. Eddie and Sandie's two sons Rusty and Pat are saddled with odd jobs from washing ats to filling pop machines. Anita LaBarr, who works the office and tends the boathouse, plus two summer cabin cleaners the only non-family employees.

Eddie said that although winter fishing was good, they are looking forward to this summer, especially Memorial Day, urth of July, and Labor Day-their busiest days of the year.

Eddie and Sandie have kept records as to when the ice goes out of the lakes. The earliest was March 14, 1981 and the est was April 27, 1975. Sandie said an 11-pound, 4-ounce walleye was caught in Jefferson in 1984. She is sure that there bigger ones.

all's Resort

Bud and Jo Hall from Garner, Iowa frequently visited Hobson's Resort, founded by Ernie and Marcella Hobson 31 years o. They enjoyed the lake to the extent that, when they sold their farm, which they had operated from 1948 to 1979, they rchased the resort in 1979.

The resort is located on a beautiful knoll between Middle and West Jefferson Lakes on Le Sueur County Road 15. Today Halls have ten cabins, a few camping spots, a restaurant, and office in their complex.

The Halls have 12 boats, two pontoon boats, bait, fishing licenses, store items, and fish-cleaning services available. The staurant and office open in the summertime from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. They offer breakfast, lunch, and supper with a ecial every Friday evening.

Bud and Jo are assisted by sons Gary and Jerry of Garner, Iowa on weekends and by son-in-law Kenny Russell of Le nter, who handles the books.

Bud said that April 2 this year was the earliest the ice has gone out of the lake since their arrival.

Jo reports that winter fishing was excellent with Gordy Struck spearing a 19-pound and a 21-pound northern just prior to the closing of winter fishing.

The Halls enjoy their livelihood with people coming from as far away as California and Hot Springs, Arkansas to rest and fish at Jefferson.

Westwood on Lake Washington

Gary Nelson of Mankato recently purchased Westwood, six miles south of St. Peter and two miles east of Highway 22. Bill and Dianne Brenner built the beautiful place five years ago, and now decided to pursue other interests. Gary, who has a home on Connor's Point, saw the need for a good eating place on Lake Washington and built a new, modern kitchen to accompany the bar business.

A huge deck accompanies the main lodge and seats 80 people. Westwood offers 30 boat slips that can be rented by the season. A courtesy dock adjacent to the public landing is also available. Westwood offers a gas service and baits of all kinds along their 440-foot lakeshore property.

Gary plans on promoting Westwood with a water show scheduled for May 3 and 4, summer and winter fishing contests, sail-boating competition, and snowmobile races.

In the future Gary plans on building a gazebo and a bar and grill on the deck where people can watch the chef prepare the food and mix drinks. Gary employs eight people who operate the resort business on a lake named after our first president.

Cub's Bait and Tackle Shop

Cub's, owned and operated by Vern and Dee Winkler, is at the base of Mill and French Hills, not far from Spring Lake, where the Minnesota River once flowed.

The building where Cub's operates was built as Keltgen's Radiator Shop. Later the building was used as headquarters for the famous St. Peter Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps. Alan Oachs, who purchased the building for a bait shop, sold it to the Winklers in 1983.

Vern and Dee Winkler are no strangers to the bait business. Vern apprenticed in the bait business in 1957 when his parents had a like business in Mankato. In 1976, Vern went into the bait business for himself and a year later, Dee became part of the business when she married Vern. Vern and Dee's daughter, Lisa, work in the family business in the St. Peter shop.

Cub's Bait and Tackle Shop meets all of the State D. N. R. requirements and regulations. A bountiful supply of live bait is available for the fisherman's delight. A 330-foot well, drilled by the St. Peter Well Company, furnished the best water possible for the bait and customers to enjoy.

The Winklers claim that the first day of fishing season is, without the least equivocation, the biggest day of the year. Vern said some of the best fishing area is around the Minnesota River and Spring Lake. Recently, a 17-pound northern was taken from the banks of the Minnesota River.

Dee said that St. Peter's Riverside Park campground is gaining favor among campers and fishermen with the potential unlimited.

For Over 100 Years Swenson Families Are Dairy People

Forest Lawn Farms: Howard Swenson and Owen Swenson

June is Dairy Month and the dairy producers are encouraging people to consume more of nature's most perfect food-milk. Retailers, the agriculture business, and financial institutions are promoting dairy products by giving away cheese, milk, and ice cream to the public.

Last year the average person in the United States drank 44 gallons of soda pop. The dairy producers stated if every son drank an extra glass of milk there would not have been a government Cow Buy-Out Program whereby Nicollet unty lost 20 herds, reducing herd numbers to about 130 in the county.

In 1857 Swen Swenson, a Norwegian immigrant, homesteaded in New Sweden Township. The New Sweden hamlet came widely known. It was at the New Sweden Creamery where Samuel Haugdahl churned the butter that won the and Prix de Honneur award in Paris, France at the World's Exposition. This was the first time a non-European won the eted honor.

Today Howard and Owen's sons Paul and Bruce are the fifth generation in the dairy business.

oward Swenson

Howard, wife Jane, son Paul, and Paul's wife Cindy, reside on the Swen Swenson farm. The 335 acres they operate ovides feed for their 130 head of cattle. The 65 milk cows average 18,300 pounds of milk with 678 pounds of butterfat per w.

Most of the Swenson registered cattle are descendents of "Kate 2", one of the original animals purchased by Swen in 35. "Forest Lawn Royal Pontiac" goes back 20 generations and "Forest Lawn ABC Ormsby" goes back 16 generations.

A year ago in July, on Forest Lawn's 100th anniversary, the Swensons had the honor of hosting the State of Minnesota lstein Field Day.

Howard and Jane's activities include 4-H, where they were both leaders, the Nicollet County Farm Bureau, the Nicollet unty Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and Norseland Lutheran Church. Howard, a former member of the Nicollet ard of Education, was a charter member of the Nicollet Lions Club. Howard is on the board of directors of the Minnesota lstein Association and Jane is Secretary-Treasurer of the Nicollet County unit of the American Dairy Association. Their lk is sold to Bongard's Creamery where it is made into cheese.

Howard and Jane have five children: Julie, Janet, Nancy, Ruth, and Paul. All grew up on the homestead farm and all re active in 4-H.

wen Swenson

Owen, wife Evie, son Bruce, and Bruce's wife Ruth, live adjacent to the Swen Swenson farm where they operate a 294-e dairy farm. The Swenson brothers divided the herd in 1979 when their sons became partners in the operation.

The Owen Swenson; registered herd consists of 130 cattle with 60 head comprising the milking herd. The present Dairy rd Improvement Association herd average is 19,483 pounds of milk with 690 pounds of butterfat per cow. This past year e Owen Swenson herd received the Premier Dairyman Award, which is awarded to the herd with the highest three-year oduction average.

Bruce and Ruth are graduates of the University of Minnesota at Waseca. This prepared them for the highly technical iry farming operation.

Bruce is in charge of the breeding and nutritional program for the herd. The Swensons use the top A. I. (artificial semination) sires available for the breeding program and frequently have herd classification for type. Ruth is presently the nager of a floral shop in Mankato. Bruce currently serves as treasurer of the Nicollet County Holstein Association and is a mber of the Nicollet Lions Club.

Owen and Evie and children, Mark, Bruce, and Barb, were all active in the Nicollet County 4-H program as well as the rseland Lutheran Church. Owen is a past-president of the Nicollet County Holstein Association, the Dairy Herd provement Association, the Nicollet County Farm Bureau, and currently is New Sweden Township treasurer. Evie works rt-time as a registered nurse at the Gaylord Hospital and is the farm bookkeeper in addition to other farm duties. Evie, a w Sweden and Nicollet County 4-H leader, has taught numerous craft classes.

Remember that "Dairying is Everybody's Business" and as the dairy people say, "What we have, we owe to udders".

is appeared in the June 30, 1986 St. Peter Herald.

Cliff, Theresa Run Shanhaska Drummer Antiques

Cliff and wife Theresa ("T") Mollert are known to have one of the most interesting antique shops in the Minnesota River Valley. Cliff said, "An item must be original and at least 50 years old to be classified as an antique." The Shanhaska Drummer is located two miles southeast of St. Peter and three-fourths mile east of State Highway 22 on Le Sueur County Road 21. The Indian name Shanhaska means "water surrounded by forest," and is the name of the creek that runs past the Mollerts', through the village of Kasota, and finally into the mighty Minnesota River. The "Drummer" part of the antique shop is self-explanatory as Cliff began playing the drums in the St. Peter High School band where he was band director Earl Erickson's first drummer when Earl came to St. Peter.

It is coincidental that Cliff's longtime drummer friend, Cliff Hermel, learned the drums from Earl Erickson over 50 years ago when Earl was music director at Nicollet High School.

Without the least equivocation, the two Cliffs made a name for themselves in the musical field.

Cliff worked while in high school for his dad, the late Adolph "Ade" Mollert, who was superintendent of the City of St. Peter Light and Water Department. Upon graduation, Cliff worked 11 years at Ritt's Electrical Center (where Ron and Kayla's Decorating Center is located) before going and operating Southside Skelly Service Station from 1952 to 1979. The station is now Rick's Southside Service, owned by Rick Gibbs and Tom Warren.

In 1979, Cliff and "T" opened an antique shop on a farm that once belonged to Cliff's great-uncle Alfred Johnson and Cliff's uncle William "Buts" Swensk. The shop, once a barn built in 1920, contains over 10,000 items that the Mollerts have purchased on buying trips into Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Many antiques at times bring back yesterday, such as Engesser Brewery bottles and cases, a plate from the New Sweden store, and Wettergren Dairy cream top milk bottles. Cliff and "T" have many lamps and shades that didn't sell until Cliff used his electrical background and wired the lamps for lighting effect.

A glass-covered wooden casket from a funeral home in Iowa is worth the trip to the Shanhaska Drummer shop.

Cliff's most prized possession is an oak case clock that dates back to 1890, which came out of a bank.

Cliff keeps active in music by playing in the St. Mary's Church Polka Mass Band that is in great demand.

Many remember when Cliff, the late Bob Burt, and wife Sally would entertain people at St. Peter's chicken dinners at John Ireland School.

The Mollerts invite the public to visit their Shanhaska Drummer shop and see first-hand why they ship antiques throughout the United States.

The Shanhaska hours are: "If we're home, we're open".

This appeared in the July 21, 1986 St. Peter Herald.

Motels, Hotels, Cabins Host St. Peter Visitors

St. Peter in its early years, according to Josie Stone's book Remember When, claimed 17 hotels.

The first hotel, and still standing at the corner of Walnut and Third Street, was the famous Winslow House built in 1855. The three-story cement building was also known as the Wheeler House, Ewing Hotel, and during the past two generations as the Brinkman Apartments. The Winslow House made its mark in history for being a hospital during the Sioux outbreak in 1862 and was the first state hospital building in 1865, before the institution moved to its present site.

The Nicollet Hotel opened in 1873 and was the finest in southern Minnesota, where many celebrities, such as William nings Bryan and most of the governors were wined, dined, and housed there, until the hotel's closing in 1973.

The Konsbruck Hotel, built in 1890, and the Cook's Hotel, built in 1923, presently rent rooms or apartments by the onth.

ranttel's Cabins

The late George Dranttel and wife Helen aided to the convenience of the traveler by building six single and two double, ell-kept cabins in 1940 in the Traverse des Sioux area on old Highway 169. George and Helen owned and operated the ins, which were the first between St. Peter and Mankato, until George's passing in 1985.

. Peter Motel

The St. Peter Motel, one-half block west of Highway 169 and Union Street, was opened in 1948 when Soren and Anna nidt built seven units in what was once a cornfield.

In 1957 the Harold Martins, who a few years earlier had purchased the motel, added another six units. Art and Connie hwartz, Russell and Candy Hoehn, and Laszlo Lavius owned and operated the motel until Terez Rozsa purchased the otel in 1981.

Steve and Terez, like Steve's brother Sandor, escaped from Hungary in 1968 by hiding in bushes, fields, and buildings til they got to Yugoslavia, Italy, and finally free, to the United States.

Upon the Rozsas' arrival in St. Peter, Steve worked at the Le Sueur Foundry a year and then 15 years at the Dotson oundry in Mankato before retiring a few years ago after several back operations. Terez took a job at Grandview Health re Center as a dietician supervisor. Terez prides herself on the fact that she was never late or missed a day despite the fact at she walked to work.

Terez, in addition to her motel duties, does the custodial work for the Minnesota School Board Association (seven years) d the Medical Arts Building (10 years.) She said, being an early morning riser, she starts the custodial duties at 3:00 a.m. d finishes at 6:30 a.m.

Terez said she does the redecorating of the rooms herself, besides the cleaning and managing. Since taking over the otel she has installed colonial outdoor lights, done landscaping, and in 1985 built a four-car garage and storage facilities.

Terez had made all of the improvements and purchases with cash on the line, as she doesn't believe in being in debt.

The Rozsas have relatives still living in their native land. Steve's 84-year-old father and Terez's mother, brother, and three sters still live in Hungary. Terez's mother and brother have visited St. Peter in recent years.

Steve and Terez have one child, Monica, who is married to Russ McCabe who works at Arrow Ace. The McCabes have o children, Eric and Sara.

outhside Motel

The Southside Motel at 1321 South Minnesota Avenue is located on the south end of St. Peter and was opened in 1949 Carl and Myrtle Lund. The Lunds built the Southside Shell Station and restaurant building in the same area two years reviously. The white motel building contains eleven rooms and four basement apartments; the apartments are rented by e month.

In 1964 Lyle Johnson purchased the motel and operated the business until selling to Elsie and Bob Bull. The Bulls, in 78, built the Redwood addition containing 12 units.

Jim and Donna Pursifull moved from Austin to St. Peter where Jim took a job at the No Frills grocery store as market anager where he is presently employed.

The Pursifulls have two children, Kevin in the U. S. Navy at San Diego, California, and Steven, who is married and lives Cleveland, Minnesota.

Viking Jr. Motel

The twenty-unit Viking Jr. at the junction of Highways 169 and 99 West was built in Gardner's Court in 1962. Gardner's Court is named after the Gardner family, a pioneer family who once owned the land before selling to the Harold Martins for development.

Ralph Johnson was the first owner and operator, followed by Carl and Belvinia Benthin. Pat and Audrey Schmitz purchased the motel in 1976, ten years after moving from Springfield when Pat was transferred by the Minnesota Valley Gas Company.

Pat and Audrey are community-minded. Pat has an enviable record in baseball. He played in 12 state amateur baseball tournaments, nine times for Springfield and three times for St. Peter. He managed the team at Springfield for four years and for the same number of years he managed the St. Peter team. In 1977 and 1978 Pat managed the St. Peter American Legion baseball teams that played in the state tournaments at Ely and at Austin.

Pat has been a member of the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years, serving as Assistant Chief for the past four years. Audrey is active in St. Peter's Catholic Church where she is the organist and on the liturgy committee.

The Schmitz's have five grown children: Jim, Lori, Dave, Ann, and Mike. Pat said that being in the motel business, one meets a lot of interesting people (such as the late Halsey Hall.) This makes running a "home away from home" enjoyable work.

This appeared in the August 25, 1986 St. Peter Herald.

Deike Transportation Enters Second Century ✍

The moving of the Chamber of Commerce Office to its new home in Levee Park on the bend of the Minnesota River brings back shades of the frontier days when oxcart, steamboats, stagecoaches, and railroads were the means of transportation and the moving of cargo.

The Deike Transfer at 1829 First Avenue in Mankato is one of the several Mankato members of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year the Deike Transfer is celebrating its first century of business. Jim Deike, president of the firm since 1979 and the fourth generation, is following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, August Deike, Sr., grandfather August Deike, Jr., and father Russell in the transporting business.

In 1886 August Deike, Sr., who founded the business during the horse and buggy days, hauled dray and sold feed and seeds.

August Deike, Jr. followed his father in the business, while brother Ben operated the Ben Deike Transfer & Storage business . . . a separate entity that deals with transporting household goods and storing household goods.

Before 1935 nearly anyone could haul commodities without any restrictions. However, in the same year the State of Minnesota set forth rules and regulations regarding safety, insurance, and territory limitations.

In 1950 Jim's father, the late Russell Deike, obtained what was called a Contract Authority Permit, which meant the firm could haul for specific accounts. Among the large accounts in St. Peter was the Johnson & Company firm at the corner of Broadway and Minnesota Avenues where the temporary State of Minnesota capitol was located. However, when St. Peter lost the capital, the building became the Nicollet County Courthouse and in 1881 the city hall.

Johnson & Company closed its doors in 1977 upon the death of Floyd B. Johnson. Floyd, according to Jim Deike, was one of over a hundred people in the area who testified before the Minnesota Railroad & Warehouse Commission that St. Peter could use the services of Deike, who was applying for a regular route authority permit which meant that Deike would be allowed to haul for anyone.

In 1955 the company obtained regular route authority so that it could make regular scheduled routes every day.

Jim Deike, on his way to the presidency, worked as a rate clerk, truck driver, and at an assortment of jobs. Jim's father ssed away in 1981. His mother, Betty, continues as a member of the board of directors of the family operation.

The Deike Transfer operated with two trucks in 1950. Today the Deikes have a fleet of 20 trailers, seven tractors, and ree small trucks. Ten full-time employees and one part-time employee operate the firm. Two of these employees are from Peter, Roger Enz (an 18-year employee) is the senior driver and Yvonne Lesnar Gostomczik is a secretary. Bob Schmillen, ongtime employee, is the firm's sales manager and Lisa Anderson is the assistant to the secretary, Yvonne.

Deike Transfer is a familiar name in St. Peter, having recently transported the Paul Granlund sculpture, "Birth of eedom", to the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Jim said that the planning and transporting of the ulpture took considerable time. This is quite a contrast to the average pickup that is between 500 and 1,000 pounds.

Deike Transfer at one time served three southern Minnesota cities. Today the firm lists 64 Minnesota cities and 150 cities northern Iowa, with terminal agents in Fairmont, Minnesota and in Boone, Iowa.

Jim said not only has business increased but so has the competition. Where there were once but four major competitors, day there are 54 in the business. The insurance rates on the average for the trade have increased 300 percent in the past vo years. He cites their awards for a lesser average premium. In 1984-1985 the Deikes won the Safety Trailmobile Award om the Minnesota Trucking Association for the Most Improved Safety Record, and in 1985, a first place for Local & Pick-Up elivery in the Common Carrier Division for under 500,000 miles.

Jim and wife, Christine (vice-president) are hopeful that one of their three daughters will carry on the century-old usiness.

t. Peter Has Five Public Accounting Companies

lson & Olson Licensed Public Accountants

Ray and his son Kevin Olson's accounting office is located at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Third Street in the Jim endroth building.

In the frontier days the building was known as the William Kohl Wagon Making Shop and as well as the residence of e William and Elizabeth Kohl family. In recent years the Eddie Weber Refrigeration Shop, Dan Archer's and later Jim endroth's Pantry Grocery occupied the building.

Ray Olson, Jr., the senior partner in the accounting firm moved with his folks from Preston, Minnesota in 1942. Ray, a aduate from St. Peter High School in 1945, served in the U. S. Army of Occupation Force in Berlin, Germany from 1945 rough 1947.

Upon his return from the military, Ray joined his father, Ray, Sr., in the operation of the family's Olson Drive-In Market here Nelson Printing is now located. Ray pursued his education and graduated from Mankato State University in business lministration, while continuing to work in the family business.

In 1959 Ray changed his business career by working for William MacKenzie, C. P. A., until he started working for Mert rby and Catherine MacKenzie.

In 1963 when Mert and Catherine dissolved partnership, Ray joined Catherine to form the Olson & MacKenzie counting partnership. Catherine retired in 1981.

Ray and Dorothy's son, Kevin, began employment with the Olsons in 1978 at which time the firm installed the first mini-omputer-the IBM 5110. Kevin was responsible for the installation and operation of the new system.

Kevin, a graduate of Mankato State University in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in accounting, became a partner in the firm in 1981 and the firm became Olson & Olson Accounting. Many believe the firm should be Olson, Olson, & Olson because Ray's wife, Dorothy, started working for Olson & MacKenzie in 1963 as a temporary secretary. Twenty-six years later Dorothy is still a temporary secretary assisted by Marie Dranttel, daughter of John (Butch) and Carol.

In 1980 the accounting partnership was granted a Public Accountant License by the State of Minnesota, meeting all requirements and regulations set for by the statutes of the state, which includes a minimum of 40 hours a year of continuing education.

The Olsons have been active supporters of community affairs. Ray has served on the Trinity Lutheran Church Board for two years, was president of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce for two years, and served as past president and in other offices of the Lions Club. Ray was a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Club (1970-1986), is a member of Shoreland Country Club, a past director of the Minnesota Association of Public Accountants, and is a member of several societies in the accounting field.

Kevin is currently treasurer of First Lutheran Church, a past treasurer of the Lions Club, a member of the Chamber of Commerce at the local and national levels, and a member of Shoreland Country Club where he worked from 1969-1978 (head groundskeeper 1976-1978) and where he won the club championship five times. Professionally, Kevin belongs to and has served on several accountant boards.

Ray and Dorothy have eight grandchildren. Kevin and Gayle have three children and Paul and Becky have five children. Paul is completing his 15th year in the Air Force.

Morken, Andring & Company, Chartered Certified Public Accountants

The Morken, Andring & Company was started by Charles Morken in 1977 and was joined by Robert Andring eight months later. Today the firm has five partners: Charles Morken, Robert Andring, Janet Morken, Robert Oberle, and Sam Johnson who is in charge of the St. Peter office. The firm's staff consists of twenty employees who serve St. Peter, Mankato, Le Sueur, Le Center, and Lake Crystal.

Sam, a graduate of Mankato West High School, received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mankato State University in 1977. From 1977 to 1982, Sam was employed by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company, specializing in taxation. In 1980 Sam was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant.

In 1981 the firm acquired the practice of a well-known public accountant, Mert Kirby, who spent his lifetime in the accounting field, building up a practice in St. Peter and several surrounding towns as well as St. Cloud.

In 1982 Sam joined and managed the St. Peter firm when Sue Mace went to work for the St. Peter Creamery.

Sam is currently treasurer of the St. Peter Lions Club and Jaycees. He works as a volunteer on the United Way and several professional organizations.

Besides Sam, the St. Peter office is staffed by Terry Hoehn, C. P. A, from Madison Lake, who recently purchased a house in St. Peter and joined the St. Peter Rotary Club. Kathy Novotny, Le Center and Karen Hildahl, Le Sueur, complete the staff.

Ellery Peterson, C. P. A.

Ellery Peterson returned to St. Peter in 1957 as an assistant professor of economics business at Gustavus Adolphus College. Ellery graduated from Gustavus in 1949. Prior to teaching at Gustavus, Ellery was employed as an accountant at the Green Giant Company from 1949 to 1953, and with accounting firms in the Twin Cities from 1953 through 1957.

While teaching at Gustavus, Ellery acquired the tax practice of the late Emil Trnka, located in the Covell building with Dorothy McCabe as secretary.

Later Ellery purchased the Grace Bowden Millinery Store building on Minnesota Avenue where he moved his practice and remodeled the building. Ellery shared the reception room with the Hanson Insurance Agency. The late Lee Liljander completely renovated the entire building, inside and outside, where the State Farm Insurance is now located.

Ellery's next stop was the purchase of the old Nicollet County Bank building (on the National Register of Historic Places) l he leased part of the building to the Chamber of Commerce. Ellery shared the services of William Johnson, part-time St. er Area Chamber of Commerce manager.

When Bill Johnson moved to Florida and Ellery was enjoying a European trip, the business was sold to Alan Mathias of conia. Ellery continued to work part-time for Mathias until a staff shortage resulted in the sale of the business to Clapper, chenmaster & Company. A year later, when the firm moved to a new location, Ellery continued to serve a limited number clients from his office in the St. Peter Savings & Loan building (old Nicollet County Bank). Ellery presently shares office ace and secretaries with Attorney Robert Schmitz at 223 West Nassau Street. Ellery continues to practice, working primarily h tax returns and preparation.

Ellery, active in community affairs, has served as an alderman on the Common Council of St. Peter, held several offices First Lutheran Church, was president of Rotary Club, and was a board member and only treasurer of the Development rporation since its inception in 1963.

ahn, Midthun, & Associates

Larry Hahn started the Hahn Accounting & Tax Service in his residence in St. Peter and his hometown Gaylord in 1973. ug Midthun of Lake Crystal and Fred Vogel of Hibbing started the Midthun-Vogel firm and opened offices in the back om of the Governor Five building. Lake Crystal is Doug's hometown.

In October 1979, Hahn and Midthun and Vogel merged and located offices at 424 South Minnesota Avenue in the former ein Furniture and Funeral Home (now Gustafson, MacKenzie, Lucas) and Lafayette. Fred left the firm in 1983 when he cepted a position with the Diocese of New Ulm. Hahn, Midthun, & Associates formed a new partnership that operates at same address.

Larry said the firm does professional services for people in all walks of life with a funeral home one of the more eresting of their clientele.

eterson & Company

Peterson & Company was founded in 1950 by Russell T. Peterson who managed as a sole practitioner until his brother bert C. left a "national big-eight firm" to join Russ in 1960. The brothers formed a partnership on January 1, 1967. The rtnership expanded with Richard Breiter and Werner Fick joining the firm in 1973 and later with Robert Qualset in 1982.

Russ has retired and will be joined by his brother Robert, shortly.

The present partners employ a staff of approximately 12 persons, which include five certified public accountants. The n is proud of the fact that two of its employees have distinguished themselves by receiving the Elijah Watts Award. This nor was given to approximately 120 C. P. A.s receiving top grades nation-wide out of 143,000 taking the C. P. A. exam.

Employees are not only community-minded (with Werner Fick on the St. Peter United Way board) but they are also tive in their professional organizations with several holding top offices.

The St. Peter office is located at 305 South Minnesota Avenue in the Main Street Center Building (formerly known as the k building), and is under the auspices of Werner Fick.

ome Plate Succeeds Alice And Bill's Cafe

The Home Plate Cafe at 1301 Minnesota Avenue was once known as the Pine Inn Tavern, and of late, Alice and Bill's fe. Pine Inn was so called because of the numerous pine trees that graced the area until the mid-1950's when the trees ere removed to make way for the new U. S. Highway 169 to the south.

In the vicinity of the Home Plate Cafe and Southside Motel, some 50 years ago, cows were quartered for families during winter months. From spring until fall it was common to see these cows led down Front Street (Cow Street) to Madison enue, then north to Veterans Field and Lindenberg swimming pool area to graze during the day.

Today cars and trucks supplant the cows around the motel and cafe. Local residents, tourists, and truckers from throughout the country stop for the home-cooked meals at the Home Plate.

The building that houses the restaurant was owned by the late Edna Engesser, a granddaughter of Matt Engesser, one of St. Peter's early settlers who founded the Engesser Brewery in 1856.

Bill and Alice Kastens, who owned and operated Alice & Bill's Cafe until August of this year, purchased the building from the A. L. McConville estate upon the death of Edna.

Some of the owners of the Pine Inn Tavern that come to mind include the late Ernie (Junior) Kramer, Mamie Johnson, Earl Gens, Freddie Thom (13 years), Gert Walker Smith, and Alice and Bill Kasten when it was known as Alice & Bill's Cafe. Alice and Bill Kasten built up not only a local trade but also a reputation among truckers that extended nationwide for their home-cooked meals. Alice recalls one of the popular and efficient waitresses, Beth Ruyak, who also worked at Erickson's Family Center before becoming Miss Minnesota. Beth was a student at Gustavus Adolphus College at the time of her employment.

Donald Richard Burke, the new owner, said that he traveled through St. Peter many times, liked what he saw in the town, and when the opportunity came up to buy a business he purchased the cafe.

Don, a graduate from South High School in Minneapolis, enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1948 where he served as Battalion Adjutant and Personnel Officer in Germany. After five years of service, Don received an honorable discharge from the service with a rank of second lieutenant.

Don pursued his education by receiving a certificate at De Paul University in Chicago, Illinois where he took subjects in Management and Organization, Economics, Accounting, and Business and Criminal Law. Don has a background in mental health as a professional and volunteer.

Some of the organizations Don has participated in include State and National Rehabilitation Associations, the Minnesota Association of Retarded Citizens, the Mental Health Association, and numerous others. Don worked in the mental health field as a professional from 1969 to 1980 in various positions in northern Minnesota. He was in business for himself as a resort owner, was office manager for the street department for the city of St. Louis Park, and was employed by the Spring Lake School District before coming to St. Peter.

Don is enthused about the St. Peter community and his goal is to continue the service and quality of food that made Alice & Bill's so well patronized.

St. Peter Cabs: From Buggy To Auto Are Reliable

The first taxi cab in St. Peter was neither yellow nor blue and white in color. It was a horse-drown hack that could be rented with or without a driver.

Gordy Foss, owner of Reliable Cab, uses a cream-colored Mercury to transport his customers about St. Peter and the surrounding area that includes trips to the Mankato airport and occasionally to the Twin Cities International Airport.

Kaysers and Others

When my generation thinks of taxi service, the Kaysers come to mind. The Kayser name and St. Peter are synonymous. Charles Kayser, Sr. and partner, Frank (Rice), in 1916 replaced the hack with a horseless carriage Buick automobile for a cab. In 1926, after Rice's interest was sold to Matt Scheibel, the business was sold entirely to Charles Kayser, Sr. and sons Charles, Jr. and Francis "Babe".

Upon the passing of Charles, Sr., son "Babe" and new bride, Mardell Stotz, took over what was known as the Kayser Dray, Baggage and Taxi service. Babe and Mardell, licensed chauffeurs, also had the contract to haul the U. S. mail from the Omaha depot to the Post Office and Post Office to depot. Mardell, who had a permit to pack a revolver to ward off all intruders, was known as "Pistol Packin' Mama".

Several owners and names of the taxi business followed after the Kayser family retired after 52 years in business. Jim isgerber reminded me that, after World War II, St. Peter had four taxi companies, namely Ivan "Toots" Spoors, Wes derson, Paquins, Shorty Halvorson (formerly Andy Cook's and later Haney's)-all licensed by the city.

A few of the other former taxi owners, besides the Kaysers, include the names of Maxine Dvorak, Milt and Johnny rriott (of circus fame), Art Notebloom, Wes Anderson, Jim Andresen and Mel Burgess, Norb and Alice Determan, and Pat tto from whom Gordy purchased the taxi business in 1982. Some of the names of the taxi service were Kaysers, City Cab, nmercial Cab, and now, Reliable Cab.

ss Reliable Cab

Gordy says "Reliable" means what the name implies, as it takes 10-15 minutes to get to the customer. Gordy has six ones and uses the St. Peter-Mankato Answering Service. He said the taxi firm must be licensed, inspected, hours and rates by the City of St. Peter. Besides years of experience as a driver, he has completed a C. P. R. course for the benefit of the stomer.

Gordy depends on the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center and Gustavus Adolphus College for the majority of his siness. St. Peter is fortunate to have a privately owned cab, as many cities the size of St. Peter do not have that service. ny cities the size of St. Peter have abandoned public-subsidized transportation because of the cost and the fact that they n't run weekends.

Gordy says the biggest expense, other than fuel, is the cost of insurance which must be added to the price of the fare.

The Foss family settled in St. Peter in 1946 when Gordy, at the age of 19 and right out of the navy, went into the grocery rtnership with his father and mother, Erv and the late Esther. The Fosses purchased the Johnson Cash Grocery (Burt's ks) where Pester Derby is located. After five years the Fosses sold the business to Lee Starkens and purchased Bunde's d & White business and moved into the building Erv and Esther Foss purchased from Martha Hanson, now owned by Cliff d Katie Hermel. For 16 years Gordy was the sole owner, having purchased his parents' interest.

Gordy's children are scattered throughout the country. His son, Kurt, a freelance photographer from Minneapolis, is in rway for the sixth time, having recently won a Norwegian Emigration Scholarship sponsored by the Royal Ministry of reign Affairs, Oslo, Norway. Photography comes naturally to Kurt as his uncle and aunt, Darrell and Ione Foss, owned the ss Studios in St. Peter for a number of years. Daughter, Kathy, who was in the army at Fort Devins, Massachusetts works a control tower operator at Fort Devins. Daughters Kristi and Kay, live in Oxnard, California and Clara City, California, pectively, where Kristi is a telephone operator and Kay, a housewife.

Gordy is a member of the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, and St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce where he was on board when "yours truly" was president in 1958-60.

St. Peter can be thankful for having one Reliable Cab, "The Cab Known for Its Musical Horns".

is appeared in the December 1, 1986 St. Peter Herald.

. Peter Physicians

oneer Physicians

St. Peter has had a long list of dedicated and faithful doctors starting with Dr. Hiram Catlin in 1855.

Perhaps the most famous of the early physicians was Dr. A. W. Daniels, who came to St. Peter in 1860 after serving as an ny doctor at the Sioux Agency near Redwood Falls. Dr. Daniels, according to Robert Ripley's column "Believe It or Not", s the first person to use chloroform northwest of the Mississippi River. He was greatly respected by the European settlers d gained the confidence of the Indians when he used chloroform to amputate the arm of a Sioux. Indian leaders traveled ny a moon to camp in Gorman Park across from the Daniels' home (now owned by the Bill Lagers) to obtain the miracle edicine, which he had to regretfully deny them.

Dr. Daniels and Dr. W. W. Mayo, father of the famous Mayo brothers Will and Charlie, of Rochester fame, were at the battle of New Ulm in 1862 tending the wounded. It was in the Dacotah House where Captain William B. Dodd, founder of St. Peter, died in the arms of Dr. Daniels as a result of battle wounds.

Chief Little Crow, leader of the Sioux, and his bodyguard ate many meals at the Daniels home while on their way to St. Paul, and upon their return, would reciprocate with many gifts for Mrs. Daniels. Dr. A. W. was joined by his son, J. W. and practiced in offices located upstairs in what is now the Masonic Lodge Building on South Minnesota Avenue.

Dr. George McIntyre came to St. Peter in 1883 and practiced where Leighton Swenson's Insurance Agency is now located until his death in 1914. The McIntyre family lived where Dr. Jack Clark now resides.

Other noted doctors before the turn of the century were Dr. George Merritt (great-uncle of Margaret Dick Keller) and Dr. F. P. Strathern. Dr. Merritt lived where Annie Ritt now resides and opened his practice in 1872 in an office where the Red Owl parking lot is, after first locating in the historic Bornemann House. Dr. F. P. came in 1899 and practiced for over 50 years. A very religious man, Dr. F. P. always prayed before he performed surgery. In 1936 he was joined by his son, Carlton, who decided to forego the coaching field after a brilliant high school athletic career for the practice of medicine. Upon his retirement in 1974, Dr. Strathern presented me with many of his instruments used by himself and his father during their combined 75 years of service. These instruments are now in the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce archives.

Dr. A. W. Daniels, Isabel Daniels Franzen
Dr. J.W. Daniels, Karen Daniels Peterson

Early 20th Century

Dr. W. W. Covell, father of Wally Covell and Rene Weisgerber, arrived in St. Peter after World War I to begin practice. In 1927 he purchased the Knoll building for a hospital. A third story was added in the 1930's and this served as the only hospital until Community Hospital was built in 1939 on the property where the old Nicollet County jail once stood. Incidentally, the stone from the old jail was used in the construction of the present pavilion in Minnesota Square.

Dr. M. E. Lenander, who was recently honored for 50 years of practice, arrived in St. Peter in 1927 and located upstairs in the old First National Bank building, now Gannons. In 1941, Dr. Lenander built a new medical facility, leasing a portion of the building to the Minnesota Valley Gas Company, which he sold to Minnegasco in 1970. In 1946, Dr. L. E. Sjostrom joined his uncle, Mel, in the practice and retired in 1969. In 1970 Dr. Lenander gave up his private practice to become the school physician at Gustavus Adolphus College. (It was a common occurrence in the 1920's and 30's to observe Dr. Mel on the Gustie bench and his buddy, Dr. Helge Sandelin, operating the down box at Gustavus football games).

St. Peter Clinic, 1936-86

Dr. E. G. "Goody" Olmanson was born and raised in the Norseland area. The Olmansons' ancestry dates back to great-grandfather Berndt, who migrated to the United States from Norway in 1850. Berndt was a son of a Norwegian fisherman who had lost his life at sea. Dr. E. G.'s father Ole, a farmer near Norseland, was well-known for his outstanding Holstein dairy herd.

Goody graduated from St. Peter High School and pursued his medical education at the University of North Dakota and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He then joined Dr. Milo Larson in practice in Nicollet in 1934. He also practiced in Hanska before eventually coming to St. Peter. (Incidentally, Dr. E. G.'s sons Drs. Don and Vern opened a satellite office in Nicollet 50 years later.)

In 1936, Dr. Olmanson opened an office in the Burg building, above what was Eddie Hanson's Gamble Store and is now the popular Sugar 'n Spice Ice Cream and Coffee Shop at 218 South Minnesota Avenue. In 1948, he built the downtown St. Peter Clinic at 217 West Grace Street, which he leased to his friend, the late Dr. Helge Sandelin, D. D. S. who had shared the offices in the Burg building. The downtown building is now owned and occupied by Drs. Dahleen, Dahleen, and O'Brien, where they practice dentistry.

Goody was joined in practice by his sons Don in 1957 and Vern in 1960. My neighbor, Mrs. George Nutter, who lived to 104 years old, would refer to the Dr. Olmansons as the "Mayos of St. Peter", when the doctors would call on her at the t Wing of Community Hospital.

Dr. Don's wife, Barb (Fritsche), comes from a family of physicians from New Ulm, where her grandfather, Dr. L. A. tsche was issued the first license in 1887 by the State Board of Medical Examiners. Barb's father and his brothers practiced re a lifetime.

Barb and Don spent 1961-1963 in Burma practicing with the famous missionary, Dr. Gordon Seagrave and Dr. Violet ıson, a native Burmese physician. After their return to the United States, they sent for Dr. Kinson. She practiced at the ıic and is now on the staff at the Minnesota Security Hospital.

Dr. Vern Olmanson graduated from St. Peter High School and the University of Minnesota Medical School. He completed residency at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital. Vern and his wife Jan have five boys. They live a few rods from where the Treaty Traverse des Sioux was signed in 1851.

Physicians who have also joined the clinic include Dr. Dennis Lofstrom, whose parents Sam and Dorothy are well own in the area. Dr. Lofstrom came back to St. Peter in 1957. He also spent four years in Tanzania doing missionary work.

After serving as a missionary doctor for 13 years in Fort Dauphine, Madagascar, Dr. Curtis Stolee joined the clinic in 72. Dr. Stolee and his wife Peg have a family of five children.

In 1973, Dr. E. G. met an untimely death at the age of 66. Needless to say, he would be proud of the new clinic built on nrise Drive in 1975.

Dr. William Shores from Mankato joined the clinic staff in 1977. Dr. "Bill" is active in the St. Peter Volunteer Ambulance vice, Lions Club and entertains many youngsters as Santa Claus. Dr. Bill is noted for conducting nonsmoking clinics. Dr. ores and his wife Terry have four children.

Dr. Craig M. Howard, a Granite Falls native, joined the clinic in 1979 after receiving a B. A. from the University of nnesota at Morris and an M. D. at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Doug Olmanson, Dr. Vern's son, is the newest member of the clinic, and is the third generation of Olmansons to ıctice in St. Peter. He joined the staff in 1985. Doug married a local girl, Peggy Pitmon, and they have two daughters.

Upon the completion of a new clinic building on Sunrise Drive in 1975, Doug Nygard became the clinic administrator. esently there are eight full-time and four part-time employees. Long-time employees were Wanda Johns and Lorraine rkley.

r. A. Henry Thompson-Dr. Robert Bauer Clinic

Dr. A. Henry Thompson, a farm boy from Madison, Minnesota graduated from St. Olaf College and the University of nnesota. He well remembers playing tackle for the "Oles" against Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth's great Gustavus football team 1946 when Gustavus Adolphus College won the conference title.

Dr. A. H. Thompson came from Madelia in 1957 and practiced in offices located above Swedberg Drugs. In 1963 Dr. ompson and Drs. Larson and Dobie, D. D. S. tore down the old Harkins building (which was built before the Sioux rising) and built the Medical Arts Building on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Walnut Street.

Dr. A. Henry, an avid bowler, golfer, skier, and hunter owns a farm in Madison, which his brother operates and Dr. ompson uses for hunting.

Dr. Robert Bauer, a native of the Chicago metropolitan area, did his undergraduate work at Northwestern University in anston, Illinois, received his M. D. at the University of Illinois, and got a specialty in Internal Medicine at St. Louis iversity. He did his Internal Medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester before joining with the Thompson Clinic in May of 1986. Dr. Bauer, an eligible bachelor, replaced the well-known Dr. Robert Nelson who retired and moved to Alpine, California where his wife, the Reverend Martha Nelson accepted a call.

Mrs. Harry (Dee) Kramer, office manager since 1959, heads up a staff of four employees.

The State Hospital

Physicians at the State Hospital have also contributed to the medical history of St. Peter starting with Dr. S. E. Schantz in 1866, followed by Drs. C. K. Bartlett, A. H. Tomlinson, R. M. Phelps (Sally Fahy's grandfather), G. H. Freeman, and B. P. Grimes (the last superintendent and first medical director who served 38 years).

St. Peter can be proud of the physicians, hospital, and two care centers that serve the St. Peter area.

Von Essen Does The Towing In The St. Peter Area

The Von Essen Towing and Service is owned and operated by Brian Von Essen. They moved to their new location in the Volk Building, 946 North 4th Street a year ago this April. The building owned by Bob and Carol Volk, also houses Volk Electric and Orval Olson's Welding Shop.

The Von Essen name is well known in the area. Bob's father, Herman Von Essen, is a retired carpenter and his late mother, Edna (Gehrke) was a St. Peter native who worked at the Johnson Overall Factory until its closing in 1977.

Bob Von Essen graduated from St. Peter High School in 1951 and spent two years in the military before returning to St. Peter. He was then employed as a route man for the Wettergren Dairy for two years.

Bob recalls those cold, 4:30 a.m., crisp winter mornings when he, Earl Fitch, Charles Kirby, and his brother Clyde would hit the streets. Clyde has been with the Bank of America in the Fresno, California area for the past 30 years.

In 1955 Bob hired out as a mechanic and right-hand man for George Trimbo at his Texaco station where the recently constructed Quick Stop building now stands. Bob worked for George five years and then purchased the business, which included a AAA contract. In 1978 Texaco became Citgo Oil Company. Bob, having lost his lease a year ago, said it was the best move he ever made.

Bob and Betty's son Brian graduated from St. Peter High School in 1978 and cast his lot with his father's business. Brad Von Essen, employed at the Minnesota Security Hospital since his graduation from Mankato State University, handles the evening calls along with Bill Dunphy. Von Essen Towing uses the Mankato Answering Service for handling after-hour business calls.

Bob says the winter of 1986-87, so far, has been the mildest, while the winter of 1968 was the coldest; they would start up to 100 cars a day that winter. This is quite a contrast from the "olden" days when many people would put their cars on blocks in a shed from fall until spring.

Bob said it is an interesting business, especially towing at wee hours in the morning. Like the milk deliveryman, Bob can tell many interesting stories.

Bob's wife Betty (Strand), is also in the business world. Betty, after 25 years as an employee at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, purchased the Sunnyside Florist Shop at 475 Union Street-which she says she is in love with.

Bob says one thing about the towing business-you can't control the weather and must take it as it comes.

This appeared in the February 23, 1987 St. Peter Herald.

chols Practices Podiatric Medicine

Dr. William N. Nichols, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, has his office at 618 Broadway, in the East Wing of the old mmunity Hospital, built in 1939. Prior to East Wing, the old Nicollet County Jail occupied the corner of Broadway and ashington Avenues. The new jail facility was built next to the courthouse on Minnesota Avenue in 1907.

As a kid I remember my brothers, Bill and Bud, along with myself delivering milk in the 1930's to the destitute families o were wards of the county in the old jail.

Incidentally, the big blocks of Kasota stone from the jail ended up in the bandstand, now pavilion, in Minnesota Square.

When visiting with Dr. Nichols, I learned that a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in layman's terms means a doctor who ecializes in the treatment of the foot. Whether it be by surgery, biomechanical means (such as arch support) or palliative e (trimming callouses, nails, etc.)

When looking at Dr. Nichols' charts and models of the foot, I recalled 47 years ago taking a physical education course m Dr. B. W. "Bump" Gabrielson at Gustavus when I learned that talipes (foot) equinas varus meant walking pigeon-toed hile talipes calcaneus valgus was the term used for walking on heels with toes turned outward. We all passed the test for membering the terms.

Dr. Nichols was born in Concord, New Hampshire and grew up in historic Alexandria, Virginia. He graduated from the nois College of Podiatric Medicine in 1977. As a part of his fourth year training Dr. Nichols completed a 14-week surgical ation in the areas of general, orthopedic, and podiatric surgery at the Henrotin Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Upon graduation, Dr. Nichols gained additional expertise on ambulatory surgery as a preceptor in the office of Dr. Ron rrish, D. P. M., who is associated with the Illinois College of Medicine as a clinical instructor.

In 1978 Dr. Nichols practiced in Reidsville, North Carolina, with a satellite office in Danville, Virginia. In 1981, Dr. chols came to Shakopee, where he returned to the educational field at St. Francis Regional Medical Center.

In September of 1981, Dr. Nichols opened a private practice in Burnsville. During the first year he did considerable ork with the Burnsville and Apple Valley soccer teams and other students in the instruction of foot and ankle trauma and ysical therapy of athletic injuries.

In August 1983, Dr. Nichols decided St. Peter was a good college town and had an excellent agricultural area and ened his practice in the East Wing.

Presently Dr. Nichols is at Burnsville on Monday and Thursday, Glencoe on Wednesday, and St. Peter on Tuesday and day. Lynn Burg, no stranger to the community, is Dr. Nichols' part-time secretary and arranges all of the appointments.

Dr. Nichols stated that about two-thirds of his patients are from St. Peter and the rest are from the Le Sueur County area.

Dr. Nichols and wife, Mary, who comes from Heidelberg in Le Sueur County, have three children: Chris, 13; John, 2; and nnifer, 9 months.

is appeared in the March 16, 1987 St. Peter Herald.

etters Go Direct From Farm To Home

The Vetter name has for several generations been synonymous with Kasota Stone, quarried by the Vetter family.

Today the Vetter logo can be identified on an impressive refrigerated truck that graces the streets of St. Peter, Mankato, d North Mankato with home delivery of fine meat products.

The Vetter name was introduced to farming in 1934 when Otto Vetter purchased the 160-acre George Hull farm near Highway 5, not far form the location of the Vetter Stone Company. Shortly after Otto began farming, he had 60 purebred Black Angus cows from western North Dakota shipped to Kasota by rail. Once the animals arrived at the depot they were driven by horses to the Vetter farm south of Kasota. The Black Angus herd now numbers around 300 and still plays an important role in the Vetter operation.

The Otto Vetters met with disaster when their house, barn, and outbuildings burned to the ground. Like the bird, Phoenix, the Vetters rose from the ashes, purchased the nearby Grover Fuller homestead, and got a new start.

Their son Richard presently lives on the Fuller farm with wife, Jo Ann Villano, from St. Paul. He met Jo Ann while she was interning as an R. N. at the St. Peter State Hospital, now the Regional Treatment Center.

Richard and Greg, the Otto Vetters' sons, returned from the military in the 1950s to Kasota. Greg took a job with International Harvester Company while Rich was employed at the Kato Lite in Mankato until he took over the farm from Otto in 1958. Greg joined brother Rich in 1959, thus forming Vetter Brothers. Otto passed away in 1965.

Greg Vetter married Miriam Peters from the Belgrade area. (Incidentally, her mother, Madeleine Poncin Peters of Traverse, taught my brothers Bill and Bud and myself at Traverse Independent School District #3 sixty years ago.) Miriam presently teaches at Mankato East High School, while Rich's wife, Jo Ann, teaches nursing at the Mankato Area Vocational Technical College. The Rich Vetters have five children and the Greg Vetters are parents of six children.

In 1980 Dave and Brian (Richard's sons) and Kevin and Tom (Greg's sons) expanded the Vetter operation by purchasing the Wayne Pettis farm four miles east of St. Peter near what was once known as Pettis Station. Here the Vetters have a farrow-to-finish hog operation.

In 1986, the Vetters, realizing it would be more profitable to direct market the hogs and beef raised on their farm, made arrangements with Bassett Meat Center in Sanborn to slaughter and process their livestock.

Although Vetter Farm Meats is a family operation, Dave oversees all the aspects from slaughtering to the cutting and wrapping of the meat to the selling of the finished product. Dave said the homegrown meat is aged for 12 days. It is flash-frozen at 60 degrees below zero to lock in the freshness. The Bassett Meat Center is federally inspected and uses all the latest equipment to provide the highest quality meat products. All sausage products are up to 30 percent leaner than the majority of commercial products and are low in sodium.

The Vetters require no "minimum amount" for delivery to your door.

Debbie (Honetschlager), Dave's wife of six years, is responsible for all the meat business bookwork as well as assisting with the hog farm bookkeeping. Deb and Dave are parents of two children, Nathan, 2 years, and Nicole, 2 months.

Dave said the Vetter Farms meat venture operation from farm to customer has exceeded his wildest expectations.

John Parmeter: Teacher And Tradesman

John Parmeter, a son of a multifaceted tradesman from the Grand Rapids area, is presently employed as a seventh grade geography teacher in the St. Peter Public School system. His talent and skills go far beyond the classroom in the field of teaching. John's lifestyle and training has led to his skills as a farrier, blacksmith, horse trainer, figure skater, log home builder, and restoration carpenter. He firmly believes that once a skill is learned, it must be kept alive by using and teaching it.

John recalls walking to school in Deer River passing by a blacksmith shop where he would watch a 75-year-old blacksmith demonstrating his skills.

John's father, George, grew up with Casey Dowling at Deer River. He was a truck driver, logger, mechanic, farmer, tdoorsman, carpenter, welder, small engine repairman, and horseman. George passed on his skills to John, and John is eased to say that his nine-year-old son, Patrick, is following in his footsteps.

John, after graduating from Grand Rapids High school, continued his education at Itasca Junior College and graduated om Bemidji State University in 1970 with a degree in social studies, history, and remedial reading. John's next step was to end the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School where he graduated as a farrier. Today John works as a farrier, or horseshoer, roughout Minnesota.

John learned the Ojibway culture and language before taking his first teaching position at the Archdeacon Gilfillan nter at Bemidji, a school for students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Following that, John was employed at the nior High Motivation Center in Bemidji.

John, while in high school and college, participated in sports and also worked for the state Forestry and Fishery epartment (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) and guided canoe and horseback trips. Figure skating was a nter sport for John and his figure skating partner, Susan, who became his wife.

Susan and John have a son, Patrick, and identical four-year-old twin girls, Kelly and Kari. Susan, a registered nurse, is esently employed at the Grandview Care Center.

John has traveled every state in the continental United States with his parents and believes in sharing his knowledge and periences with others.

Three buildings from the St. Peter area have been restored by John at the Agri-Interpretive Center in Waseca. People om throughout the country have traveled to Waseca to watch him work and demonstrate stone splitting, leather tanning, storic tool usage, root cellaring, smoking meats, and restoring log buildings. All of these are valuable skills John has quired.

John's mother, Margaret, born and raised in Cincinnati before moving to Deer River 43 years ago, said their sons George, (who is now an Episcopal priest) and John acquired the Indian culture and language by their associations and proximity the Indian reservations. She said they have a knack for accomplishing what they set out to do. As Dizzy Dean once said, you done it, it ain't braggin." John has done it.

olco Manufacturing Produces Toys nd Electronic And Medical Components

The Rolco Manufacturing Company, located two miles south of St. Peter, is just off of Highway #22 on the banks of the anhaska Creek (Shanhaska means "surrounded by forest"). It is less than a furlong from the Country Pub.

Vern and Helen Olson, with son Brian and son-in-law Gary Thompson, operate the business with 13 part and full-time mployees. Vern is a native of Morgan, Minnesota where he participated in athletics. His wife, Helen (Schloesser), is from Le enter and they met while in school at Mankato State University.

In 1983, the Olsons started the plastic business in the basement of their house; they expanded, removing a bedroom all for more space. A few years ago the Olsons moved the operation into the former Ed Swartout stable. The stable, rrounded by huge oak trees with sheep grazing in the pasture reminded me of fifty years ago when Robert (Bud) Allen's lks raised sheep in the same setting.

The Rolco Company manufactures 76 different products in the former 2500-square-foot stable. The products include nything from toys and game parts to medical and electronic components. The Rolco Company is using the former 2000-quare-foot Northern Engineers Contractors building in downtown Kasota for shipping and receiving quarters.

Rolco itself delivers its products as far as the Twin Cities area. U. P. S. and truck lines transport most of the products that e delivered across the country.

The plant produces no waste during its manufacturing process because the scrap plastic is recycled.

Son, Brian Olson, is a graduate of St. Peter High School. Brian and Gary both work in the plant and are both in the Army Reserve. Brian serves in the Winthrop Army Reserve and Gary is a member of the Fort Snelling Reserve. Gary served in the armed forces in Germany. Brian was a member of the R. O. T. C. at Mankato State University and Gary was in the R. O. T. C. at the University of Minnesota.

The Olsons, although very modest about Rolco, are hopeful of a steady growth in their manufacture of plastic products.

The Milk House

The Milk House is located at the corner of Third Street and Broadway Avenue, one of the largest intersections in St. Peter. Oldsters remember the huge auto garage that John Dondelinger had built on the site at the close of World War I. The owner was a victim of hard times, and as a result, the building was used to house the Engesser circus animals during the winter, as a roller skating rink, and for a variety of events until the Nicollet County Hybrid Seed Corn and St. Peter Implement Company occupied the premises in 1940.

In 1946 the Cargill Seed Company purchased the Nicollet County Hybrid Seed Corn Company and used the building until 1970 when their operation was moved to the Industrial Park location.

The Walter Brothers demolished the building in 1972 to make room for the Milk House and Third Street Liquor Store. Ron and Joan Johnson, Eugene and Carol Waschbusch were the first owners of the complex. In 1985-1986 Pat and Rita Hix owned and operated the business along with son Greg and wife Mary. In October of 1986 they sold the business to Dick and Bonnie Palm. A generation ago stores such as Broadway Grocery, Pantry Grocery, and Rucks were called "Pa and Ma" stores. The convenience stores have sprung up to replace them.

The cash and carry Milk House carries Dannheim milk in glass bottles and ice cream from New Ulm.

Dannheims is one of the few milk bottlers who still bottle milk in glass. For those who wish milk in plastic, they carry the Sanitary Dairy milk from Sleepy Eye.

Art Schuck said he hauled thousands of cases of milk, juice, and ice cream while working for the Johnsons.

Bonnie operates the Milk House and Third Street Liquor Store with the help of Joanne Leajgeld, Darwin Maas, Arden Olson, Jeff Gardner, Brad Reese, and her daughters Rhonda and Janie. Dick Palm, Bonnie's husband from Minneapolis, was employed with I. Y. T. E. C. Corporation in Redwood Falls before becoming plant manager at Onan Corporation.

Bonnie had experience as an accountant for county social services for eight years in Redwood Falls and two years in St. Peter before taking over the operation at the Milk House and off sale liquor store.
The Milk House offers 20 flavors of ice cream, 6 flavors of fruit juices, 10 flavors of drinks, in addition to sundry grocery products and gas. Rod Van Zee picks up the milk in a refrigerated truck from New Ulm, and Sanitary Dairy of Sleepy Eye delivers twice a week.

Bonnie has the Milk House open from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sundays for the convenience of the customers.

Nicollet County Fair

St. Peter, with all of its celebrations, is rapidly becoming the center of entertainment of the Midwest.

The Nicollet County Fair, re-organized in 1870, is an offshoot of the Nicollet County Agricultural Society that dates back to 1861. The president of the re-organized group in 1870 was Andrew Nelson (Hamilton's grandfather), who was also one of the community leaders that were instrumental in locating Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter in 1875.

The same year the fair was officially started, the first Floral Hall was built at a cost of $200. There was no floor put in because of the lack of money. The Nicollet County Fair was advertised as the "biggest little fair in Minnesota" because so many acts went from St. Peter to the Minnesota State Fair. It has been held in St. Peter every year except in 1874 when it was held in Nicollet and in 1948 when cancelled because of the polio epidemic.

In 1889 the Driving Park Association acquired the fairgrounds with the Nicollet County Agricultural Society (the fair) leasing the land. The present Floral Hall was built in 1901 at a cost of $1,522.35. The main floor is still used after a renovation project in 1976, the Bicentennial year.

The St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee edition records show that prior to the turn of the century, C. A. Johnson was secretary, followed by John A. Johnson (prior to his becoming governor of the State of Minnesota). Judge Henry Moll was president for a number of years, followed by C. W. Carpenter, Charles Johnson, and Andrew Cook in 1919 (who later became the mayor of St. Peter).

Secretaries that served the fair after the turn of the century list Matt Sheehan, E. E. Miller and son Hilton, Bill Mallgren, Dr. Roy A. Dean (who was also president), William Gustafson (a past president), Herb Monke, and Bob Faust (also a president.) The latter four also served as managers.

In 1919 the Nicollet County Agricultural Society was again re-organized and incorporated with shares selling at $10.00 a share. The Nicollet County Agricultural Society purchased the fairgrounds from the Driving Club and a new era began.

The "School House" building was built at a cost of $700 with money being raised from the rural school districts. In 1928 a new 4-H building was constructed at a cost of $2600. This structure was named after T. A. Erickson, the state 4-H leader.

In recent years a 4-H Food Building, a 4-H Exhibit Building, a Jaycees Building, a Pork Producers Building, and a Dairy Building have been added. A new grandstand was constructed two years ago and the most recent addition is a new commercial exhibit building, with an area of 112 feet by 48 feet. It will serve as a multipurpose building when not in use for the fair.

As a youngster I remember the great auto racer, "Sig" Haugdahl from St. Peter, who would return home to race against the clock. The Nicollet County spelling bee would be held during the fair; my brother Bill lost in the finals when he was eleven years old (I can't remember the word he went down on).

Milt and son Johnny Herriott, who were world-known animal trainers (and related to the Engesser circus people), would perform before the grandstand at the fairgrounds.

The 40-acre fairgrounds served as the home field for the St. Peter High School, the Legion, and town football and baseball teams. I can remember Traverse playing Oshawa at the fair when every seat in the four grandstands was filled.

"Babe" Didrikson Zaharias, the world's greatest woman athlete, pitched for the House of David baseball team in 1935. (The House of David team was composed of bearded men except for the "Babe.") The Minneapolis Millers played against St. Peter at the fairgrounds and the great Miller, Joe Hauser, planted a home run in Martin Menk, Sr.'s garden. (That was in the year 1933, when the town team won the state championship.)

Some of the past officers and directors include Christ Olsen, Merrill Claridge, Lloyd Seitzer (30 years), Al Pickel, Ken Eckberg, Ernest Edoff, Stan Davis, and Carl Youngblom. Present officers and directors for the 117th Nicollet County Fair include Richard Johnson, president; Gale Kreykes, secretary; Bruce Ellefson, treasurer; Keith Kreykes; Howard Wollam; Lois Annexstad; Richard Pehrson; Martin Annexstad, Jr.; Russell Thompson; Walton Gieseke; Howard Vogel; Allen Wike; and Larry Hewitt. Martin Annexstad is serving his 33rd year on the board and his second term on the Minnesota State Fair Board of Directors.

The Nicollet County Fair has touched many of the 4-H members', exhibitors', and spectators' hearts for 117 years, especially under the leadership of Fred Wetherill (30 years) and Greg Luehr (10 years.) Here's hoping the next 117 years will be successful!

Hewitt Farms

Hewitt Farms, located in western Le Sueur County between Cleveland and Le Sueur, is operated by a young couple who are no strangers to the area. Kevin Hewitt grew up in the Oshawa area, not far from the former North Star Country Store. His wife, Jeanette Anthony Hewitt, has roots in the Norseland area.

The Hewitts were well groomed for farming, both having farm backgrounds with involvement with 4-H, county fairs, and other activities. Jeanette showed beef as a member of the Norseland 4-H Club. Kevin assisted the Comparts in their hog showing. Kevin was an active member of the Future Farmers of America during his Nicollet High School years and had the opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

Jeanette, upon graduation from Dr. Martin Luther Preparatory School and College, taught in an elementary school in Scarville, Iowa.

Jeanette and Kevin were married in 1984, becoming partners in the farm operation. They purchased a farm site with a house, shop, and garage in Le Sueur County and moved in on July 4, 1984. Kevin operated rented land in that area.

In the summer of 1985 the Hewitts added two storage grain bins and a drying set-up to their operation. A building for grain storage and machinery was completed in 1986. The addition of another bin will give them a 65,000-bushel storage capacity. Presently 40,000 bushels of grain are in the grain reserve. The grain reserve, incidentally, is part of the government program for on-the-farm storage.

They raise corn, beans, and wheat on the 450 acres of tillable land.

Kevin is a dealer for Asgrow/0's Gold Seed and Minnesota Public Seeds. He also does custom combining, swathing, and trucking throughout the year. During the busy season Kevin's father, Bob, and his nephew, Brian Mittelstaedt, can be found helping out with the farming operation.

Kevin is active on the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and recently assisted with plans for the tour of the Grain Exchange and attending the Twins game. They are active members of the Norseland Lutheran Church.

Kevin and Jeanette are parents of two children, Ray, 2, and Elizabeth, 14 months.

Servicemaster

In May of 1980 DeVon and Sheryl Esau came to St. Peter from Mountain Lake where DeVon managed his father's West Side Body Shop and Sheryl was a fourth grade teacher. Upon arrival in St. Peter they opened their cleaning service which they operate out of their home at 1486 Leonard Street in Lampert addition.

DeVon is the branch manager of Servicemaster of Minnesota River Valley whose main office is in New Ulm.

Servicemaster started in Chicago, Illinois in 1947 where the headquarters are now located. It is number 14 on the list of oldest franchised companies, with 3,500 franchise owners worldwide. Servicemaster means "service to the Master" and has retained tremendous leadership in regard to their overall company objectives that are:

To honor God in all we do
To help develop people
To pursue excellence
To grow profitable

The Esau's keep abreast with the latest in their business by attending monthly meetings and national conventions.

DeVon and Sheryl have a staff of nine people that service Brown, Nicollet, and Le Sueur counties. DeVon admits that usiness was slow from the start and his self-made gyrocopter (small one-set helicopter) drew more attention than his usiness. However, people gained confidence in their work and the word spread as to their workmanship, and with the elp of insurance agents and adjusters, they have had a steady yearly growth.

The Esau's have received great satisfaction, physically and mentally, after cleaning buildings after fire, floods, tornadoes, nd other catastrophes. Servicemaster, the world's leader in residential and commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning and saster restoration, has its own laboratory and chemists. Customers have a choice of scents. DeVon said they deodorize a ouse in five minutes with the fog being so heavy that you can't see your hand in front of your face.

The Esau's are proud to be a part of Servicemaster and the fact that in 1985 they won the Servicemaster award for ranch managers for southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, and all of South Dakota. This was the first time the award was ven.

In February 1986, DeVon and Sheryl purchased the contract service license for Brown, Nicollet, and Le Sueur counties. ney also received an achievement award for their accomplishments that year.

A few of Esau's commercial cleaning accounts include Alumacraft, a veterinary clinic, a radio station, a bank, a dental enter, an accounting firm, and many others in the three-county area.

The Esau family has grown, along with their business. Chad is six, Ryan is four, and in February they welcomed Jennifer om Seoul, Korea who will be one in October.

his appeared in the October 12, 1987 St. Peter Herald.

itizens' Scholarship Foundation f America Is Located In St. Peter

In 1976 H. Stuart Johnson was hired by the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America as director of the Minnesota roject. His first charge was to find a location in Minnesota to set up a C. S. F. A. office.

Johnson, a St. Peterite, and his wife Marlys both graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. They taught in Japan and hilippines before going to Spring Lake, Michigan where Stu taught and Marlys worked in the Ottawa County Social ervices. Then they returned to St. Peter from whence they came.

The office was originally located in the basement of their home at 726 Lower Johnson Circle. In August 1981 the local ffice expanded into the Minnegasco building where the office became the Midwest office for C. S. F. A.

In 1984, with Stuart and Marlys as vice-presidents of C. S. F. A., they broke ground in land once known as the State ospital pasture. I am sure many of you remember beautiful Holstein cattle roaming the hills where the C. S. F. A. building now located at 1505 Riverview Road. The original land, 2 acres, was purchased by the Development Corporation from ndependent School District Number 508 and donated to the C. S. F. A.

Stu credits the Nicollet County and First National Banks, who financed the construction of the C. S. F. A. building, as the anks have done with the armory and other local projects.

The C. S. F. A. project is now national headquarters, having moved from Manchester, New Hampshire. Recently they urchased another 7.3 acres from the school district for expansion.

The building and equipment cost one million, and was designed as a five-year project. The C. S. F. A. received $300,000 cash and materials and has paid off the entire mortgage.

The Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America is a national, non-profit student aid service organization. Its mission is edicated to expanding access for dedicated to students to higher education through the creation, development, and management of student aid programs. In the fiscal year 1987 ending June 30, they processed 47,575 applications with a total distribution of $8 million. Stu said about 13 percent of the applicants receive scholarships.

In fiscal 1987 the community-based Dollars for Scholars grew from 272 to 306 to chapters nationwide. The S. S. F. A. is responsible for 199 scholarship management services. Recently Johnson and Marilyn Rundell, C. S. F. A. operations officer, attended the Lee Iacocca Scholarship banquet in Detroit where six Iacocca Scholarship recipients and families from throughout the United States were honored.

In October 1986, William C. Nelsen, former president of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, became president of C. S. F. A. and moved to St. Peter where he resides in Prairie Heights.

When C. S. F. A. was located in the Minnegasco building there were five employees: Stu and Marlys Johnson, Bev Swenson, Sue Nowak, and Marilyn Rundell. Today there are 34 full and part-time employees. The total expenses for the operation show $9,500,000 with over $718,000 paid out in salaries. Believe it or not, 110,000 to 120,000 pieces of mail go through the local post office yearly.

Recently C. S. F. A. received a $49,000 grant from Digital Equipment Corporation toward a $98,000 Micro VAXII computer system. The computer is a great asset. In the past five years, C. S. F. A. has more than doubled the number of scholarship programs it manages, and more than tripled the amount of scholarship funds it distributes.

Although Johnson credits the St. Peter Development Corporation, Independent School District Number 508, and the city for their cooperation, it must be remembered that, because of the Johnsons, C. S. F. A. is one of the largest industries in St. Peter.

Farming In The Hanson Family For 100 Years

Fred and Judy Hanson's Oak View Farm in Lake Prairie Township is located between the hamlet of Norseland and Traverse Township. Fred claims the Hansons have the better of both worlds as they can attend lutefisk dinners at the Lutheran churches in Norseland and find out what's going on in the world at Vena's Cafe in Traverse.

Fred's and Judy's ancestors, the Hansons and the Miners, are no strangers to each other as their roots go back to 1856. Records show that Miners sold lumber to Hansons in early days and their ancestors served together on the Nicollet County Agricultural Society (Nicollet County Fair) board over 100 years ago.

The Hansons and Miners served their country in 1862 when their ancestors were volunteers at New Ulm during the Dakota Conflict. Records show that Jedidiah Miner served in the infantry during the Civil War.

Fred graduated from St. Peter High School and Gustavus Adolphus College in the class of 1960. He started farming that same year as his father was laid up with an injury.

Judy, also a St. Peter High School graduate, graduated from Mankato State University in 1967. She taught home economics at Nicollet and was a substitute teacher in the nearby schools for a number of years.

The Hansons are active Farm Bureau members. Fred served two years on the Nicollet County Farm Bureau board and was secretary /treasurer for five years. Judy is serving her fifth year as the Nicollet County Farm Bureau reporter. Fred and Judy have been active promoters of the Nicollet County Pork Producers where Fred served on the board six years and held the offices of secretary and president. Judy has served on the board of the Pork Council Women for seven years and has held the offices of treasurer, vice-president, and president. Currently Judy is a member of the National Pork Council Women Speakers Corps. In the past two years, she has given 34 speeches promoting agriculture and the pork industry. For the past several years, Judy has had a weekly column, "Talking Agriculture," in the St. Peter Herald, In 1987 Judy was honored by winning the Minnesota Agri-Women leadership award. Presently, Judy serves on the board of the Nicollet County Historical Society. Fred is a 4-H leader.

The family is active in the Scandian Grove Lutheran Church, Norseland, where Fred served on the church council six ears and Judy taught Sunday school for ten years.

This past year, the Hansons operated 400 acres, which included Judy's family farm (Miners) in Oshawa. The Hansons so raise hogs and purebred Shorthorns, as Fred, Sr. did for years.

I can vividly remember attending the Nicollet County Fair with my dad when we would stop and visit Fred, Sr. at his orthorn exhibit to see how many purple ribbons he had won.

When I think of Fred Hanson, Sr., I recall the year 1933 when Fred Sr., Vic Pearson, and Herb and Elmer Martens from e Norseland Farm Bureau, represented Nicollet County in the Farm Bureau singing quartet contest. They not only won the ate, but also the National Farm Bureau singing quartet contest.

Agriculture, being in the Hanson and Miner blood, Fred and Judy are hopeful that their children will be part of the rgest and most important industry in the world.

itterhauser's Restaurant

Klaus Mitterhauser's Restaurant is located at 429 South Minnesota Avenue in the old Carnegie Library. The library was uilt in 1904 with a $10,000 donation from Andrew Carnegie.

Klaus Mitterhauser purchased the old library building this past year when the city moved the library to the former Lomis uilding at the corner of Front and Nassau Streets.

Klaus, a native of Austria, became interested in the culinary art as a youngster to be sure he would get enough to eat, as s family was destitute.

Klaus' cooking has taken him from Austria to Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Brazil, and the United States, including awaii.

Klaus was employed as a chef and instructor, not only in some of the world's finest hotels, clubs, and resorts, but also the Swedish American Line's, M. S. Kungsholm.

During his travels Klaus has learned to speak five languages fluently. Klaus was cooking, teaching, and research chef at eneral Mills for several years before operating some of the most prestigious restaurants in the Mill City, including the 501 aute Cuisine, the Anchorage Hilton Seafood Restaurant, and La Tortue.

While in the Twin Cities Klaus furthered his education by enrolling in business accounting and English at the College of . Thomas.

In touring the Mitterhauser Restaurant, diners can view the cups, medals, trophies, and a replica of the $5,000 check laus won at the American Pineapple Cooking Competition in Honolulu, Hawaii for his dessert entry-Pineapple Mousse orte.

In 1972 and 1976 Klaus won a gold medal and two silver medals in Frankfurt, Germany as a member of the American lympic Culinary Team.

From 1968-86 Klaus gave lectures and culinary demonstrations at the Air Force Officer's Club, in St. Louis, at Purdue niversity, at Dayton's Department Store in Minneapolis, at Macy's Department Store in New York City, for church ganizations, and for various societies. Klaus has created and written over 800 recipes during his career.

Many of the people that dine at Mitterhauser's come from far and near, including Mankato, New Ulm, and the Twin ities area.

Klaus employs from 16 to 20 full and part-time people. The night my bride of 40 years and I dined at Mitterhauser's we had Jim Guley (Florence Peterson's granddaughter's husband) as our host.

The oak chairs, cherry tables, and rows of old books gives one the atmosphere of the day when Grace Gresham Hein and Marge Haesecke were the librarians.

Klaus said that he opened the restaurant (November 12) at the right time, with Christmas coming he booked over 20 parties.

Mr. Mitterhauser is hopeful that St. Peter will be his final stop in the business and spiritual world!

KGAC Originates In Bjorling Hall At GAC

KGAC-FM 90.5 on your dial originates from studios in Bjorling Hall on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

The 700-foot transmitter tower is located south of St. Peter in Belgrade Township, Nicollet County.

KGAC, the 10th public radio station located in Minnesota, serves communities within a 70-mile radius of St. Peter.

The local public radio depends on listeners, members, local businesses, foundations, and institutions for operating income.

The programming for KGAC, which operates 24 hours a day, originates from the Minnesota Public Radio network based in St. Paul and from throughout the country and the world via National Public Radio and American Public Radio.

KGAC listeners enjoy many excellent programs originating from the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. The Christmas music from Christ Chapel is one of the many fine programs originating from Gustavus.

John Gaddo, KGAC station manager, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and worked for public radio in La Crosse and National Public Radio in Washington, D. C., before becoming affiliated with station KLSE, Rochester, as a reporter, producer, news director, and assistant manager.

Dawn Schuneman, a Mankato State University graduate, is the other KGAC employee. Dawn is the station's marketing associate and started work there in December of 1985. Schuneman assists with the operation of the facility.

In November 1986, KGAC and sister station KLSE, Rochester won the 22nd Gabriel Award which is a coveted national award for the production of "Liberty's Children: A Celebration of Citizenship". Gaddo received the award during ceremonies in Tampa, Florida, on November 5.

KGAC's next scheduled membership drive is slated for early February 1988. Gaddo said, "We're not looking for only money, but need volunteers to answer telephone calls, billing and handling, and other chores during the drive".

Better Micro Solutions

Better Micro Solutions, one year old, is in its embryonic stage compared with Elbert's Electronic and Hermel's Radio Shack-Music Store, whose businesses I wrote about some time ago.

Jon Smithers' Better Micro Solutions business is located in the Four Seasons Mall, owned by Ron and Dave Johnson. The building was formerly owned by the Andy Cook family and housed the J. C. Penney Company for over 40 years.

Jon, a native of Flint, Michigan, had several jobs before deciding to enter the computer field, which is one of the world's astest growing businesses.

Jon graduated from Mankato Vocational Technical Institute in 1984. He had three years of experience in retail computer sales and service, plus additional training in computer programming before opening his business at 208 South Minnesota Avenue.

Jon's customers include not only businesses, industries, and farmers, but also youngsters of school age throughout southern Minnesota. This is a far cry from the arithmetic tables located in the back of the book that were mandatory for students to learn when I went to school.

Jon said in order to become an expert in providing solutions in hardware, software, and consulting he must constantly keep abreast by reading and updating and pricing in order to be competitive in the fast growing marketplace.

Jon illustrates the rapid growth in the capacity of computers by saying a 40-pound portable computer of today would have occupied half a room ten years ago and it would have had the same power.

Better Micro Solutions sells computers ranging from the Apple to the powerful IBM compatible 386 machines as well as printers. Jon was quick to point out that his service allows him to successfully compete with the chain stores in southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities area.

Jon emphasized that the most popular software has been the desktop publishing and other graphic software which customers, along with Better Micro Solutions, use to print ads, newsletters, reports, signs, and posters.

The IBM AT compatible computer is the most requested model today because of its speed and expandability. Many businesses and institutions in St. Peter have expanded their number of computers. Harry Evanoff, publisher of the St. Peter Herald, pointed out that when he came to St. Peter the Herald had one computer. Today the Herald has seven.

Jon is married to Karen (Windhorn.) Jon's daughter, Amanda, is 12 years old and Jon remarked that Amanda is not only learning computers in school, but also has the advantage of growing up in the computer business.

St. Peter Now Has Three Travel Agencies

St. Peter Travel

Until 1972 the only ticket agencies for travel were the Greyhound bus depot, located at Cook's Cafe-Hotel (and later at the Nicollet Hotel), and the railroad depots, Northwestern in south St. Peter and the Omaha in east St. Peter.

On September 1, 1972, Milt and Jackie Wolters sold the Brunswick Hotel in Faribault, retained the travel bureau business, and opened the St. Peter Travel Agency in the Ribble building, which now houses some of the District Soil Conservation offices. Milt and Jackie (who operates the Faribault business) cast their lot with St. Peter as they could see a market with Gustavus Adolphus College, industrial firms, and the center of a good agricultural community.

Milt and Jackie are proud to have their children, Lynn Marie and Mark, graduate from Gustavus Adolphus College.

Milt acknowledges the use of computers is the biggest change in the travel business. In a few seconds the computers can come up with the best fares to any destination. According to Milt, air fare is cheaper and quicker than bus or train, allowing 60 percent of people who didn't travel before to take two vacations a year instead of one.

In the 1940s, the flying time to the West Coast was from six to seven hours. Today that same trip takes only three hours and in the future it will take only 90 minutes.

Milt said travelers are glad to learn of the restrictions on the carry-on luggage and is convinced that great strides will be made in solving the baggage problems that occur when people arrive at their destinations.

In 1986, the Wolters moved into modern offices in the House of Insurance building at 322 South Minnesota Avenue. Milt and assistant manager Mike Lyons estimated that approximately 80 percent of ticket buyers travel by air, 10 percent by bus, and 10 percent by train.

Milt recalls how times changed since our first acquaintance, 45 years ago, when he played baseball with the Faribault A's in the Southern Minnesota League while my brother Bill and I were with the Mankato Merchants in the same league. As Milt said in closing, "The teams in the 1940's get better each year as there are fewer people to dispute the claim".

Hometown Travel

St. Peter natives Bill and Barb Stangler opened the Hometown Travel Agency in 1986. The business, which also houses the bus depot, is the west end of the Video ShowKase building at 210 Nassau Street.

Bill and wife, Barb, graduates of St. Peter High School, received their Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Minnesota and Gustavus Adolphus College, respectively. Barb taught in the school systems of Litchfield and Mounds View before her marriage, and in the St. Peter public schools as well as at Gustavus Adolphus College after marriage. Barb was also a probation officer in Le Sueur County.

Bill and Barb have three children. Ben is presently in the Air Force, Kate (Owens) is with International Business in Minneapolis, and Bob is a junior at St. Cloud State University.

Bill, an accomplished musician, played in the University of Minnesota Pep Band that accompanied the football team to many Big Ten schools. He was also manager and musical director of the local Govenaires during the Capitol Days celebration-the forerunner of the Independence Day Picnic celebration. Bill is presently the music director of the well-known St. Mary's Church Polka Mass Choir.

Bill farmed the family farm prior to opening the travel bureau and was on the John Ireland and St. Peter Public School Boards. This past year was a big year for the Stanglers as Bill became a sales agent for Haugdahl Realty and he and Barb acquired All-American Travel.

Bill and Barb, like other travel agency owners, not only plan the tours, but also many times accompany the travelers to see that they are well taken care of. They also have offices in Le Sueur and Le Center and employ three people in addition themselves. Barb, Hometown manager, said their agency prints the passenger tickets in the St. Peter office and issues a boarding pass that allows customers to give their luggage to the Skycaps outside the terminal so that they can proceed directly to the plane.

The Hometown Travel has a slogan that they endeavor to abide by: "Service is our only commodity and your satisfaction is our only goal".

Number 1 Sun Tan & Travel

Number 1 Sun Tan & Travel is one of St. Peter's newest businesses. It is located in the Johnson Towers Complex at 320 Sunrise Drive, overlooking the beautiful Minnesota River Valley.

Connie Campbell, manager/owner, is no stranger to the community. Prior to her new business, she worked at the Milkhouse and Third Street Liquor Store on Third and Broadway.

Connie says the sun tan and travel business go hand-in-hand as many travelers prepare for their vacation by sun tanning for 25-minute sessions prior to their departure. The tanning pre-conditions the skin to prevent burning.

Connie appreciates the support, not only from Gustavus students who sun tan prior to the Easter break, but the many St. Peter area customers who are regulars.

Connie's employees, Margaret Giles and Tara Keifor, are from Gustavus and along with Joyce Wilson plan the trips for interested travelers. The people at Sun Tan & Travel often work around the clock to accommodate the customers for their vacations.

Connie and her husband, Steve, are parents of Shawn, 14 years old, and Jennifer, 12 years old. They know how nportant sun tanning is prior to leaving for warmer climates because they have been there.

his appeared in the April 11, 1988 St. Peter Herald.

illards Started First Business In St. Peter In 1974

Bob and Judy Millard, owners of Millard Tire & Auto Center, are Minneapolis transplants to St. Peter. Bob graduated om Benilde High School and Judy from Minneapolis Edison.

The Millards arrived in St. Peter in 1974 when Bob became manager of the Goodyear Tire Center in the John Deere uilding east of St. Peter. The building was for many years owned by Ken and Marci Santelman; the business and building ere then sold to Chet Willer of Mankato.

In 1987, Bob was promoted to supervisor of several Goodyear stores in south central Minnesota and continued to reside St. Peter. Bob and Harland Strosheim purchased the business from Goodyear in 1981. In 1985, Bob and Judy purchased arland's interest, thus becoming sole owners.

The Millards are happy for the two-way radio system that is a must for the 30 to 40-mile radius that they service. With e two-way radio, trucks can be dispatched to the field to change or repair tires, saving customers valuable time.

Bob has tires for lawn mowers, garden tractors, trucks, automobiles, and tractors. The tires range in size from 350 x 4 for wn mowers to 30.5 x 32 for tractors. The auto center also handles all auto accessories in addition to a full line of repair.

Bob recently announced the return of Dave Kittleson from Harland's at Faribault to manage the St. Peter operation.

In 1918, Standard Oil of Indiana purchased property on the corner of Broadway Avenue and Highway 169 from William nd Esther Ludcke (Maxine Dvorak's parents) to build a new, modern service station.

Some of the early operators were Bill Barnes (Marilyn Robertz' father), the late former mayor George Martens, and ormer city alderman Julius Annexstad from 1934 to 1974. In 1961, Standard bought the remaining Ludcke-Dvorak property outh of the Episcopal church and constructed a completely new building. The Ludcke stucco house was moved to its resent site, which incidentally was owned by Maxine's great-grandfather, Anton Ludcke. This property was part of the raverse des Sioux settlement.

Recent operators of the Amoco (Standard) station before Millards were Tom Farrell, Ron Reese, and upon Ron's death, is wife, Darlene Reese. The Reeses also operated the bus depot out of the service station from 1973 to 1986.

The Millards are completing the third stage of the facility with the drive-through car wash. The first and second stage of odernizing was the canopy pumps and the inside renovation that included dispensing machines, snacks, etc.

The Millards employ 27 people, including Bob, Judy, and son Doug in the two businesses.

Bob and Judy are parents of two other children, Steve, a high school senior, and Kim in ninth grade.

Bob is completing his second term on St. Mary's church board and was active in the steeple renovation and other nprovements. This past month Bob was elected to the chamber board, filling the unexpired term of the late Marge Bloom. ob was also elected to the chamber ambassadors this past September.

The gas and service business is a new ballgame, compared with the hand-pump gas stations that lined Minnesota venue and side streets 50 years ago. Gas was 15 cents a gallon. Now the gas tax is 30 cents a gallon-double the price of gas 0 years ago.

Leivestads Own Carburetion ✍

David Leivestad, with his wife, Deanna, are owners of Carburetion and Turbo Systems, Inc. He became personally involved in converting engines from gasoline to propane in 1965 while working as an LP bulk truck driver in eastern Montana.

Dave is known to be very mechanically inclined, and his earliest experiences were related to truck and farm engines, but eventually evolved to include industrial, van, pickup, bus, car, and standby engines ranging in size from 8 cubic inches to 3,000 cubic inches. In the 1970's he developed a unique package which includes a turbocharger on an LP gas engine, thus increasing the HP anywhere from 50 to 75 percent.

In 1970 David and Deanna left the "Big Sky" country for Minnesota. After about a year he landed a job in the propane division of Minnegasco as fleet maintenance supervisor, where he did nothing but propane conversions on all types of engines. The late Bill Royster was his boss. Minnegasco sold their propane division in 1977 and rather than leave St. Peter and move to Minneapolis, per the new owner's request, Dave and Deanna decided to "test the waters" and founded Propane Carburetion and Turbo Service, Inc. in January of 1978.

The Leivestads now employ five people full-time and about as many on a part-time basis, including themselves. Full-time employees include two of Dave's brothers, Philip and Eric, who joined the firm in January of 1984 and June of 1985. Another brother, Vernon, worked for them from 1979 to 1985. Warren Hardel of St. Peter is the newest addition to the crew. Son, Derek, also works on a part-time basis.

The past five years has brought an increased interest in CNG (compressed natural gas) as an alternate engine fuel. The Leivestads have had excellent results in this field, too, thus broadening their image and changing their corporate name to Carburetion and Turbo Systems, Inc. Even more current is the firm's ability to provide CNG filling stations for fleet owners who have made the decision to switch to CNG. They have worked very closely with several major utility companies in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota by converting a large number of their vehicles (and their customers) in recent years.

Dave always emphasizes the benefits of using propane engines because propane is a very clean-burning fuel-well able to meet OSHA's stringent emission standards. Therefore, the Leivestads do a considerable amount of service work in the Twin Cities area on construction equipment and forklifts, which must operate within confined buildings.

The Leivestads' company not only installs alternate fuel and/or turbo kits within a five-state area, but they also ship kits to nearly every state in the continental United States. They have a considerable amount of test equipment, which includes engine stands, an engine and a chassis dyno, a Sun engine scope/analyzer, and an infrared exhaust analyzer. These are used extensively to test carburetion systems from customers, as well as from manufacturers. These often come by mail from all over for repairs, adjustments, and evaluations.

The firm also arranges for LPG and CNG seminars at their installation center in Shakopee, where Dave works every day. Usually when they convert a large fleet, the training sessions are held at the customer's location for all the key employees, who will work most directly with these alternate fuel systems.

The Leivestads' accounting office is in their home in St. Peter. Deanna, a part-time student at Mankato State University, shares her time as a member of the St. Peter (ISD #508) school board and as treasurer of the PROP Food Shelf. Dave serves as a deacon at the Bethany Alliance Church.

The Leivestads have two children in the public schools. Derek, a senior, who is interested in the Air Force Academy, and Damon, a ninth-grader, who is active in the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

llen Runs Central Logging In St. Peter

The Central Logging and Milling operation on Gault Street and Dodd Road is the largest exporter of logs in Minnesota.

For you history buffs, Gault families lived in Traverse des Sioux before the founding of St. Peter in 1853 by Captain illiam B. Dodd.

Eddie Allen and his wife, Sylvia (the business bookkeeper), and brother, Joe, from Logan, Iowa, are the fourth eneration in the logging business. Eddie and Joe's father is still in the logging business in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Allens purchase 18 varieties of timber from a radius of 300 miles. They also buy from at least 10 sawmills in innesota from which they ship direct.

Joe is a buyer of cut logs and also handles the procurement. Cousin Randy, who has been with Eddie and Joe off and n for ten years, buys standing lumber.

The logs brought into the St. Peter Mill are stripped and cut by a 13-foot Woodmizer band saw.

Jerry Horten and his wife, Barb, and Jerry's brother, John, handle the stripping and sawing. The logs are marked with a erial number, painted for easy identification, and some are waxed to prevent the ends from splintering.

The logs are placed in a 40-foot steel container and transported by private contractors to the Northwestern Depot. The gs are shipped by rail to Seattle, where they are placed on ships bound for Japan, Taiwan, and other Asian countries. pan was the largest importer of logs in the past year. The local firms also ship logs to Italy, Germany, France, Turkey, and pain. The logs are sold through a broker, with repeat orders being the largest part of the sales. These exported logs are sed principally for furniture, paneling, and flooring.

Eddie said, "When the spring break is over, and with the purchase of five acres from Bill McGuire and with new quipment and buildings, our planned expansion will cost approximately $1 million".

The mill with the expansion will be able to better handle exports and cut logs for domestic and local use.

Presently, 4,200 feet of logs are placed in 40-foot containers and shipped with a 75 percent use by the purchaser. When ne new equipment is installed, they will be able to put 14,000 feet in the same containers with a 100 percent recovery to ne buyer. These orders will be cut to the specifications of the customer.

In October 1985, the Allens purchased five acres and the Carl Borgeson sawmill. The Allens sold the mill, which was ebuilt and currently stands in the shadow of Paul Bunyan's statue in Bemidji.

Eddie says he is in St. Peter because he met Bill Pell while buying logs west of St. Peter. Bill convinced him St. Peter was ne place to set up a business.

When the new operation is completed, 25 people will be employed and they will ship in one day more logs than Paul unyan could cut in a lifetime.

ulip Tree Building Has A Place In Local History

The Tulip Tree card and gift shop in downtown St. Peter at 204 South Minnesota Avenue is owned and operated by uzan Hollerich, Mary Rodning, and Judy McHutchison.

The threesome reminds me of another threesome, Carl, Gus, and Frank Swenson, known as the "Three Teddy Bears" ho owned and operated the College Inn (Swede's) during my high school and college days.

The 22 x 65-foot, red brick building where the threesome is located was originally located in Traverse des Sioux. It was owned by Andrew Myrick, who operated a store near Fort Ridgely and who made the ill-fated statement (when the Native Americans were due money according to the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux), "Let them eat grass". Later, Myrick was found with his mouth stuffed full of grass.

Peter Kramer purchased the building in Traverse des Sioux in 1872 and moved the building brick by brick to its present site. N. George Swanbeck purchased the building for a confectionery store before selling the building and business to the Swensons in 1915.

Several businesses were located in the building until John Elbert purchased the property in 1971, where he conducted Elbert's Electronic business.

On June 3, the Tulip Tree girls began their operation and have been delighted as to the growth of the business. A ballpark figure reveals that 75 percent of the business comes from the local area with the remainder coming off Highway 169.

The Tulip Tree name is actually taken from the orange, yellow, and green tree grown mainly in the southern states and is not subject to a nickname as heretofore mentioned.

When entering the store, one can not only see the Christmas wreaths and garlands, but smell the candles, spices, and soap that puts one in the Christmas spirit. Several thousand items are stocked everywhere from candles, sheets, towels, mugs, Traverse des Sioux medallions, and sundry other items to freshly-ground coffee, packaged by Gourmet Expressions of New Prague.

In addition to their own work and ingenuity, the Tulip Tree girls employ the services of Emilie Lokensgard and Jennifer Rodning. Emilie, as did Mary Rodning, apprenticed under the tutelage of Fred and Joy Struck at the Traverse des Sioux Garden Center, where Mary worked for eight years.

Judy, Mary, and Suzan credit John and Phyllis Elbert (landlords) for restoring this historic building to its natural beauty.

Annexstad Served The St. Peter Area

Julius N. Annexstad 89-year-old native of Norseland (the Lutefisk capital of Nicollet County), has served his entire life as a farmer, businessman, and volunteer in the St. Peter area.

He received his education as a student at Gustavus Adolphus Academy before graduating from the St. Peter High School. He attended the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture at the St. Paul campus before returning to the home farm in Norseland "from whence he came".

In 1931, Julius took a neighbor girl, Ethel Johnson, as his bride. From this marriage they reared and educated three children. John, a graduate of Gustavus, spent several years in Antarctica doing scientific research and is now teaching at Bemidji State University. Mary, also a Gustavus graduate, is superintendent of schools in Petersburg, Alaska. Tom lost his life while serving in the Marine Air Corps in 1968.

Julius, during the Depression in 1934, left the family farm to manage and operate the Standard Service Station on the corner of Highway 169 and Broadway Avenue. He remained operator and manager for 36 years before working in sales for four years, retiring in 1974, thus completing 40 years with Standard.

Julius' records show that in his 36 years of operating the J. N. Annexstad Service Station, he paid out $119,998.35 to Standard for rent. He employed 65 full and part-time people in those 36 years with a payroll of $312,379.50.

He survived the gas and tire rationing during World War II by giving friendly service and a good product.

Julius has won recognition and several awards over the years. He won several Standard Oil-sponsored fishing trips for las Tire sales during the years of 1940-50. He was a grand winner in the "Appearance and Cleanliness" contest in 1952. lius was Standard "Lube Man of the Month" in 1954. In the following year, 1955, he was awarded the 22-year "Small usinessman Award". He was the Standard Oil "All American" dealer of the Northwest Region in 1959.

The Standard Service Station was rebuilt, enlarged, and modernized during Julius' operation. In 1962, Standard rchased the William and Esther Ludcke home south of the Episcopal church to gain more room for the third expansion. e Ludcke house was moved to its present location in Traverse des Sioux where the Ludcke family first settled before the unding of St. Peter.

The inside and outside of the station (now Amoco) was improved during the operation of Ron and Darlene Reese, and b and Judy Millard, the present operators.

Julius, being a community-minded person, served on the St. Peter City Council from 1950 through 1959 as an alderman. e is a member of Shoreland Country Club where he has belonged for over 45 years. He has served as secretary of the St. ter Businessmen's Association (later known as the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce), and belonged to the St. Peter dustries Association (later the St. Peter Development Company). He was a charter member of the Rotary Club in 1940. A ember of the Chamber of Commerce, he was honored for lifetime service to the community by that organization. He is so a member of Trinity Lutheran Church Council, the Minnesota Valley Boy Scouts of America Council, the Nicollet County storical Society, and was honorary governor of Minnesota during Capitol Days in 1963.

Julius says he remembers gas selling at 15 cents a gallon. Today the tax is triple the price of gas in 1934.

Julius says St. Peter has been good to him, but I would like to say that Julius has been more than equally as good to the . Peter community.

istory Of St. Peter Streets

One of the most common questions asked during my 30 years connected with the Chamber of Commerce as director, esident, and manager was why St. Peter streets are named as they are.

aptain Dodd and New York

When Captain William B. Dodd came from New York City to St. Peter in 1853 to found the town, he not only brought s new bride Harriet Newell, but names of New York streets such as Broadway, Chatham, Park Row, Nassau, Jackson, and race. Grace is also the old Fort Road (CSAH 5 that ends at Fort Ridgely 45 miles from St. Peter).

A one-block Dodd Street below the bank is now Riverside Park. This street was named in Dodd's honor and was on the iginal plat. This street along with River and Market streets no longer exist.

The new Dodd Road, which is part of Highway 22, runs from Traverse des Sioux past the St. Peter airport. This road was e old Fort Road and was later called Airport Road.

This Dodd Road shouldn't be confused with the Dodd military road that ran from Kasota to Mendota, which Dodd built nd was reimbursed $3,000 for his work.

ames Common to Many Cities

As in many cities, names of trees were selected: Chestnut, Mulberry, Myrtle, Walnut, Cedar (College Avenue since the id-1930's), Elm, Pine, Spruce, and Aspen. Streets were also named for presidents: Washington Avenue, Madison and ckson Streets, and Lincoln Drive.

Sometimes a street is given a name for lack of a better name. Nottingham, Stratford, Hampton, and Winchester Streets in aun's addition were named for that reason. Surprised? There is no Robin Hood Street!

State and Local History
Governors, a Mayor, and an Explorer

However, many if not most of St. Peter streets have a direct connection with local and state political history. Names of governors from St. Peter have been selected: Swift, Austin, McGill, and Johnson. A park was named after Territorial Governor Willis Gorman, another native of St. Peter. Ramsey Street was named after Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey, who was present at the signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux on July 23, 1851. Julien Street is named after the first mayor of St. Peter in 1865, E. St. Julien Cox. Nicollet Avenue was named after explorer Jean Nicollet. (This street is in the Pine Ridge addition.)

The State Hospital

The State Hospital has also played an important role in the history of St. Peter. The name of Freeman Drive comes from the fifth Superintendent of the State Hospital (St. Peter Regional Treatment Center.) Sheppard Road was named after Charles Sheppard, Medical Director at the Minnesota Security Hospital.

Early Clergy and Mission

Streets are also named after clergy or missions in early St. Peter. Livermore Street comes from Reverend Edward Livermore, a priest at the Episcopal church from 1860 to 1883. Riggs Street is named for Reverend Stephen Riggs, a Presbyterian minister who drowned while bathing in the Minnesota River. Mission Street is named after the mission at Traverse des Sioux.

The Military: Civil War and Dakota Conflict

Many streets are named after people who served in the military. Skaro Street is named for Captain A. K. Skaro, who lost his life while commanding Union forces during the Civil War. Other streets named after military officers are McLeod, Medary, Brown, Sumner, and Flandrau. Charles Flandrau was commander and chief of the volunteer forces during the Dakota Conflict in New Ulm in 1862 when Captain Dodd lost his life.

Traverse des Sioux

Some streets are named after early residents of Traverse des Sioux: Hatch, Rice, Nichols, Dranttel, and Gault. The Gaults moved to St. Peter where the fourth and fifth generations reside. Other street names are connected with the history of Traverse des Sioux. Winona, Red Iron, and Wabasha are named for Native American chiefs who were at Traverse des Sioux. Sioux Lane is named for the Sioux tribe, which was at Traverse des Sioux.

More connections with Traverse des Sioux include the names Daun and Peachy. Daun Street was named for the Daun family who owned the Traverse des Sioux land where the Interpretive Center and Museum is to be located and who also owned Daun's addition. "Peachy's Lane" is named for Peachy Egli who owned land where the old Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church was located.

St. Peter Commercial History

Streets were also named after people who are part of St. Peter's commercial history. Martin Street comes from Harold and Laurie Martin who developed Gardner's Court, land once owned by Dick and Don's grandparents. Stone's Way is named after attorney A. A. Stone who owned property in the south end of the city. Evenson Street is named for M. G. Evenson, one of the first businessmen in St. Peter and who built one of the first houses in the city. Ritt and Davis Streets are named for Bill Ritt and E. C. Davis, St. Peter businessmen and honorary governors during Capitol Days.

There are street names that come from real estate development. Ronell Street comes from the first two letters of Rollie Neils' name and the "ll" from Lampert Lumber, the developer. Thomas, Leonard, Howard, Loren, and Charles Streets in Lampert addition were named after officers of the Lampert building center. (Incidentally, there were two Charles Streets in St. Peter until I pointed it out to the city officials and they renamed one of them after the pioneer Dranttel family who lived in Traverse des Sioux.)

Developers Malcolm and Donna MacKenzie and Laurie and Harold Martin named Inverness Lane, MacKenzie Court, and Highland Court. Malcolm's Scottish ancestry influenced the choice of names.

Menk Drive, in the newest part of the Pine Ridge addition, is named after Martin Menk, city engineer of St. Peter for 30 years.

ocation

Other streets simply describe their locations or backgrounds. Union Street is where the Dodd and Union additions join. hurch Street is east of First Lutheran Church. The area was developed by some members of the church, which was a rivate corporation.

One street describes the location through which it passes. Traverse Road extends from Washington Avenue to Sunrise rive. It is part of County Highway 15 that extends through Traverse west to New Sweden. Some streets describe the view: apitol Drive, Valley View Road, Riverview Road, and Meadowlark Lane. Fair Street is named for its proximity to the Nicollet ounty Fairgrounds.

Another street name was once deleted. West of Minnesota Square is St. Paul Street. East of Minnesota Square was icollet Street, now also called St. Paul.

he Past: Cow Street

Let us not forget Cow Street, which is actually Front Street. People who had cows in the south end of Front Street erded their cows down Front Street across Broadway Avenue to Madison Street, then west across Minnesota Avenue Highway 169) to the slough where Veterans Field and Lindenberg Swimming Pool is, to pasture their cows during the day. an you imagine crossing Broadway and Minnesota Avenues today with 22,000 trucks and cars traversing through St. Peter aily?

he Future: Suggestions for Street Names

Names for the Planning Commission to consider in the future should be old settlers such as Daniels, Nutter, Clark, 'Brien, Ludcke, Pell, Sackett, Klein, Bornemann, Moll, Laumann, Pettijohn, and Ames, who were founders of St. Peter. Mel arth and H. B. Seitzer, who served the city for 33 and 32 years on the city council, should be considered along with many her families.

nvestment Club Notes 25th Year

On the evening of May 9, 1967, nine people met at the home of one of the proposed members to form the St. Peter vestment Club.

The purpose of such a club was to learn more about investing in stocks, bonds, and securities. The name of the club, les, and regulations to govern the club were adopted at this first meeting.

Five of the charter members are still active in the club: Clarence H. Johnson, John Bresnahan, Gilbert Voss, Roy Warning, nd Robert Wettergren, who all served as president. Johnson is the current president after serving many years as secretary.

At the first meeting, the nine members decided to invest $20 each month into a stock with five shares of Super Valu eing their first purchase. The club also voted to oppose any broker from becoming a member of the organization.

The club floundered for the first several years with only four members present at the annual meeting in 1969. Buying a ock on a "hot tip" or by the "seat of your pants" showed a loss of $8,032 at the end of the fiscal year of 1972. In fact, things ere so bad that talk of disbanding or praying to St. Jude (the patron of lost causes) was on the minds of the few loyal embers.

In an attempt to turn things around, the club joined the National Association of Investment Clubs. The club members ead faithfully the "Better Investing Publications" and finally a year later decided to use the "Selection Guide and Manual". his, along with changing the meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and meeting in the quiet and solitude of the Episcopal hurch of the Holy Communion parish hall, increased interest and attendance.

Presently, the club averages 16 members a meeting.

The club's 20 members are made up of men from all walks of life with 16 retired or semi-retired. The 20 members are divided into four committees with each member reporting on at least one stock every three months.

In 1982 the club was recognized by the National Association of Investment Clubs for its accomplishment. Johnson, then secretary of the club, presented a paper at the association's meeting in the Twin Cities when Johnson recognized Jim Jacobs, the club's treasury-agent for his work in turning the club around to its present status. Today, the records show the club has averaged a gain of 12 percent on its investments. This is not too bad considering the club has in its portfolio 22 stocks ranging from food to portable systems (outdoor toilets.)

Board members, other than those heretofore mentioned, who have served as president are Don Burch, George T. Witty (twice), James Littig, Robert Schmitz, Robert Swedberg, Matt Braun, Lloyd Seitzer, Larry Overn, Robert Wright, and Milt Nielsen.

Current officers are Johnson, president; Dayton Martinson, vice-president; John Bresnahan, secretary; and Jim Jacobs completing his 18th year as treasury agent. Other members include Roger Leonard and Lou Nolan, who serve on committees.

On May 11, club members invited their spouses to dinner to show them how they "buy low and sell high" remembering that it's not the bulls and bears that create the highs and lows on Wall Street, it's the bum steers".

Buildings Hold Retail History

From time to time, people have requested that I write down what businesses were in the buildings in the central business district over the past 60 years.

I will begin with the 300-block west, as I am most familiar with these buildings over the past 60 years.

Video Show Kase-Hometown Travel (Bill and Barb Stangler)

According to the Herald Diamond Jubilee, the building is one of the oldest in St. Peter (now owned by the First National Bank) and was the Bennett building where Lantz had a shoe factory and later Colonel B. F. Randall had a grocery store. Satory Drug Store and Joe Poetz' Drug Store were followed by L. L. Blender's General Merchandise Business. L. L. Blender and son, Norman, were granted a license for a saloon. The Blenders were followed by Spencer Arndt, Seif Meyer, Carl Eckman, and others. Mark Schaus and Jerry Germscheid opened a men's clothing store followed by Bruce Santelman's Governor Five men's store. The building now houses the Video Show Kase and Hometown Travel.

Knotts Landing

The building is now owned by Michael and Carole Knotts. For many years the Walter sisters owned the building. Charles Wettergren operated a cafe in the building around the turn of the century. He was followed by Carl Gustafson, his brother-in-law, who operated a saloon on the premises until Prohibition.

Albert Seitzer and Selmar Johnson operated a hardware store followed by Snyder and Hallander, then Hinnenthal and Stindt in 1936. When H. & S. moved to the Odd Fellow building (now owned by Dan and Dorothy Schlenker) Betty Babcock opened a Tot 'n Teen Clothing Store. This was followed by Don Burch, who had purchased the shoe business from John Nelson and was located in the old Nicollet County Bank building, where now Hawkin's Jewelry is located. Burch sold the business and building to Ed Odegaard, who sold the building to the Knotts who operate a unique store.

Ben Franklin

Now owned and operated by John Meistrell, the building was built by Philip Dick, Sr. in 1893. He was joined by his two sons, Philip, Jr. and Albert. Russell Dick (Albert's son) operated the business until leaving for the military.

At one time, the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company leased the south half of the building. Dick sold to Dick Manuel for a Ben Franklin Store. Son, Mike Manuel and wife, Sue, took over the business from Dick and Ione Manuel, but sold to Meistrell and moved to Nebraska.

icro Solutions Building

The building is now owned and operated by Jon Smithers, who operates Better Micro Solutions in this historic building ilt in 1885 by the Schleuder family. When Max Schleuder passed away, Elsie and Leon Bunde took over the jewelry store. e Bundes previously owned and operated the Red & White Grocery Store in the 200-block.

When the Bundes moved into the Masonic building, John Lindquist ran a bakery in that location. When Lindquist went work at the State Hospital bakery, Ken Odell and Barry Bowles opened a Hallmark card shop before selling to Frani derson. When Anderson took a job with Realife, she sold the building, which she had purchased from Julia Mae Strathern ll (Max Schleuder's niece), to Smithers.

Smithers restored the front of the building to the way we used to remember it.

wedish Kontur Imports

This building is now owned by Anders and Janet Bjorling, who operate an import store. The building was built by odgkins for the Citizens State Bank. Hodgkin's daughter was married to Captain William Dodd's grandson. The bank failed 1924, and Joe Poetz moved his drugstore to that location. Rudy Faust succeeded Poetz in the business and upon Faust's ath, Bob and Lila Faust took over. Bob and Lila, who had purchased the building, sold it to the Bjorlings for their unique port business.

asonic Building

This building was built in 1900 and was called the Daniels building. It was sold to the Masons in 1933. The Masons ssigned and rented the upstairs to their liking with the permission of Dr. A. W. Daniels. J. Ben Nelson had a shoe store in e north store. Adolphsons (Pete and son Albin) took over the business at the death of J. Ben Nelson. Pete's brother, drew (Wally Adolphson's father), had a cobbler shop at the rear of the building. When Albin Adolphson retired, Mrs. go Carlson moved her dress shop into the building. She was located previously in the 100-block east. Bonnie Dowling rchased the business from Lita and Hugo Carlson. Bonnie sold her business (Bonnie's) to Claire Ann Warrant. When Claire n retired, Betty Von Essen opened Betty's Floral Shop and Country Keepsakes which was followed by Antique Peddler's ich operated in the building for a short time. The store is vacant at the present time.

Pete Schuveiller operated a grocery store in the middle store with dry goods on the south side, where Nutter's is now. ott Dobie will have his new shoe store where the grocery department was. There is an opening between the two stores, ich will remain when the new shoe store is opened.

After Schuveiller's, the Red Owl moved into the middle building, followed by Bunde's Specialty Shop which was in the ddle store of the Masonic building for 28 years. Steve Drummer operated Wood, Etc. (where Bundes's was) before rchasing the Burg building where Sugar 'N Spice Bakery was and Sugar 'N Spice Cafe is now located.

Nutter Clothing has occupied the south store since 1936, having formerly been in the Haesecke building next door and e owners having bought the clothing stock from the Haesecke estate. This building was known as the J. P. Danby building. c and Agnes Halvorson owned and operated the Braun's Department Store until selling the building to Al Battig. The ilding is the home of the House of Insurance, St. Peter Travel, and Mark Bollum's I. D. S.

hari's Closet

The building, now owned by Dr. Blake Dirks, was built in 1900 by John and Peter Schaefer, who had a newsstand and ugstore known as Schaefer Brothers. In 1955, Bob and Kathy Swedberg purchased the Schaefer building. In 1978, the edbergs built a new building on the corner of Third Street and Park Row, leasing this building to the Brauns, who leased eir building to Cook's Bridal Shop. When the bridal shop moved to its present location, M & M's operated a children's thing store until Joan Moses and Jackie Wettergren, present owners of Shari's Closet, moved over from Third Street.

ecorating Center Building

This building was built by Charles W. Mason, Sr. in 1902 for his hardware store. Later his sons, George and Charles, Jr., ned the firm which was known as Mason Brothers. W. W. Savage Company was the next occupant of the building, selling variety of merchandise. Bill Ritt moved his electric shop into the building in 1930, from where the Coastal Station is now cated. The Ritt family sold the business in 1973, a few years after Bill Ritt's passing, to Jim Miller who sold it to Jim Elbers.

Upon closing, the building was sold to Ron and Kayla Wiebold for the Decorating Center. Kayla, after graduating form Mankato State University this past year, is employed by Citizens' Scholarship Fund of America, and Ron operates his paintin contractual business out of the building.

First National Bank

The bank purchased a house from C. A. and W. A. Wettergren and demolished it, along with the Ritt garage-warehouse, for parking and drive-in business. They also purchased the Hohnemann Hotel that was Rheaume's before it was sold to the Haneys, who were the last bar owners. The bank purchased the site for the bank from Cy and Ramona Kruse who had a very successful Dodge and Plymouth auto agency for many years until Cy was forced to retire because of ill health. The Kruses had rented the building to Howell Motors' Willard Johnson for the auto agency, followed by Ken Gosewich for a furniture store. The Kruses sold their property over a quarter of a century ago to the bank.

Miller & Miller Insurance Agency and Nelson Printing Shop were east of the bank. The business was sold to Hartley and Bill Pell, who moved across the street and put up a new building where Leverson Meat Market was, at one time.

The bank also acquired the land where Dr. Stan Kaisersatt practiced dentistry. M. H. Kirby and his accounting business was in the basement. The building was moved south of the old fire station-city building where Mert Kirby operated his business. The building is now owned by Dr. Don Olmanson. He and his daughter, Dr. Schelli McCabe, have their practice there. The Strathern building, owned by Doctors F. P. and Carlton Strathern, was purchased by Stan Davis for storage at the St. Peter Creamery (Davisco). The little green building east of the alley was once the office of Dr. John Lambert, a veterinarian. Miles Lunak had his cobbler shop in the building. Mark Hinnenthal and Ed Stindt rented the building for storage for the hardware store after Lunak moved.

"Great White Way" Came To Town In '30

For nearly 65 years, the controversy has arisen in St. Peter over whether or not U. S. Highway 169 should go down Minnesota Avenue.

As the Herald Diamond Jubilee in 1930 pointed out, a path or a trail went down the middle of Main Street until the "great white way" project came about in 1930. Hallett Construction paved Minnesota Avenue with an 85-foot concrete strip from Broadway Avenue to Myrtle Street. The cost was just under $40,000. A strip from Highway 169 to the Broadway Bridge was also paved at the same time. Highway 169 thus completed a paved highway from Kansas City to Minneapolis.

At the time when the highway was paved, Ritt Electric received the bid of $11,309 for installing 86 light poles and wiring, etc. The sewer lines were the responsibility of Ole Overn and his father Lars, who did most of the sewer lines in St. Peter at that time. The excavation was done by Lundin Construction of Mankato in preparation for the concrete pavement.

This ended the parking in the middle of Minnesota Avenue or Highway 169, and the removal of overhead lights. With the new lighting, the cost was $7.36 per evening for the business district in downtown St. Peter. The "great white way" was dedicated during the Diamond Jubilee on October 2, 1930.

In 1960 the Common Council of the City of St. Peter voted to keep U. S. Highway 169 where it is and re-do the highway to handle the 22,000 vehicles per day that travel through St. Peter.

I should note that the trees in the divided boulevard from Skaro to Livermore Streets were removed in 1957 by Komatz Construction with Dick Weisgerber, a student at the University of Minnesota at the time, running the back hoe. The trees were planted by pioneer settler Jim Clark (the oldest Civil War Union soldier at the time of his death at 94) who came to St. Peter with his folks in 1856. The trees in front of the courthouse and across the street on the west side were also removed to make room for a wider highway. With the removal of the trees on the north end of the boulevard on north Minnesota Avenue went the famous sign, "St. Peter: Home of 5 Governors" and "St. Peter has Natural Gas".

DOWN MEMORY LANE

here's History In Them Thar Railroad Tracks

In 1858 St. Peter settlers, realizing the importance of railroads in opening the western frontier, sold $100,000 in stock to ise money to induce the old Southern Minnesota Railroad, the old Winona-St. Peter (later Chicago-Northwestern) railroad build a railroad through St. Peter.

The railroad, built in 1871, was the first in Nicollet County crossing Washington and College avenues just below the mpus of Gustavus Adolphus College.

May 5, 1871, a 2400-foot railroad trestle was completed at a cost of $130,000 that spanned over the mighty Minnesota ver from Kasota to St. Peter.

The freight trains carried freight to the State Hospital, Gustavus Adolphus College and the St. Peter Area. Many a notable ot off the train at the State Hospital, Northwestern and Omaha depot. The famous Doctors Will and Charles Mayo would ebark from the train at the State Hospital on Sunday to perform surgery. According to the late Mrs. George F. Nutter, Dr. arry Tomlinson was a personal friend of the Mayos and would bring the famous Doctors to the Nutter home at 310 North innesota Avenue on Sunday p.m. for tea and crumpets before returning to Rochester.

On September 22, 1909 a special train brought the body of Governor John A. Johnson, staff and friends, to the Omaha epot east of St. Peter. Old timers claim the funeral procession was the largest gathering ever in St. Peter where upwards of irty-thousand people from all over the country were in St. Peter for the occasion.

During World War II the Navy and Marine recruits who were stationed at Gustavus Adolphus College were seen walking om the Omaha depot to G.A.C.

Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth, former coach and athletic director, recalls picking up the great Frank Gifford on College venue and giving him a ride to G.A.C. when Frank was reporting for New York Giants training camp.

I can vividly remember 55 years ago when my dad and brothers Bill and Bud, were standing in Charlie Brandt's grocery ore and watch the dogs congregate at the platform of the old Northwestern depot on Pine and 5th when the aroma of tefisk would catch their nostrils. The dogs inspected the delicacy for better or for worse.

In 1930 Hallets built a railroad spur from the pit through where Klein's Mortuary is located to connect to the Chicago-orthwestern. Sand and gravel from the pit was shipped all over the country as Unimins at Kasota and Ottawa is shipped day to seaports where ships carry silica sand throughout the world.

My ancestors claim as many as 12 trains would stop at Traverse (means, 'to cross') a day to unload freight and ssengers and to load grain, butter from Willow Lawn Creamery, livestock and passengers.

The Minnesota Valley Railroad, later the St. Paul & Sioux City, C. St. P. M. & O. ('Omaha', now the Chicago-orthwestern) was built in East St. Peter, Le Sueur County in 1868.

According to the St. Peter Tribune "the people of St. Peter celebrated the event by a substantial use of this land nvenience". Wm. Schimmel, proprietor of a granary-elevator building, now Embassy Bar, shipped 800 bushels of new heat by the new railroad to the flour mills of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis was nicknamed "Mill City" and the Minneapolis professional baseball team named the MILLERS because of e flourmills.

Theo. G. Moline, a retiree from the railroad after 44 years, told the Lions Club recently that he and the late Ed Korf stood ard at the Caroline Crossing, south of Kasota, while President Harry S. Truman slept in a green pullman car named agellan" on the siding at Kasota. Ted said the ten-car train left the Twin Cities in the evening and was not due until orning in Mankato and that was the reason for the stopover in Kasota. This was in 1948 when the Chicago Tribune roneously reported "Dewey defeats Truman".

Kasota, incidentally, was the rail center (or Chicago) of the Midwest with a huge depot, water tower and a settlement of people in what was called "depot town".

Trains will come and go, but not every community can claim "President Harry S. Truman slept here".

Local Whistles And Bells Mark More Than Time

Since 1856 people in St. Peter and surrounding countryside have enjoyed listening to whistles, bells and chimes to inform people of the time or approaching trains.

The Engesser Brewery, founded in 1856 and once one of the leading industries in the state, blew a whistle (letting off steam) at 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m., indicating the beginning of the work day, dinner and the end of the work day.

The St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, a mile to the south blew its whistle at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The call was to get the patients up to work the 800-acre farm, call to dinner and come in from the fields for supper. I understand when the farming operation ended, the hours changes.

The bell at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion, cast by McNeely's Foundry, West Troy, N.Y., was installed on the old church (where the parish hall now stands) in 1857. The bell has rung out at the death of every president, and the end of every war and conflict since that time. It also rang at the funeral of Capt. A.K. Skaro and Capt. William B. Dodd, who had the first military funerals in St. Peter in 1862, according to the Herald Diamond Jubilee issue.

The bell at the Union Presbyterian Church, installed in 1871, rang out for the Gov. John A. Johnson's funeral on Sept. 24, 1909. Janet Massopaust, at a Nicollet County meeting for the state centennial at the courthouse in 1958, said that her "Grandfather Alexander Harkins tolled the bell with a hammer when the rope broke during the procession". Herb Poncin, church historian, hasn't been able to verify this happening.

The bell at First Lutheran Church was retrieved from the ashes when the church burned and placed in a frame near the entrance of the new church. The bell at the old Norwegian Church, later the Church of Christ, was given to the Church of Christ at Cleveland.

The bell at St. Mary's Church now is at the Marysburg Catholic Church near Madison Lake.

The bell at the Old Main, Gustavus Adolphus College was installed in 1876 and rang out chapel and home basketball victories. It is still in place. However, the carillon (chimes) on the chapel rings out for the services and special occasions.

The bell at the former fire station-city hall rang from 1878 - 1923, as a fire alarm. The bell is on Third Street at the present fire station in a frame with the clapper welded to the hull, never to ring again.

The bell at Central School, now Arts & Heritage Center was installed in 1871 and is still in the belfry.

The bell at Washington School was given by W.H. Komatz to the high school when the school was demolished. The bell has been placed on a frame on wheels and rings out at special football games at Johnson Field. The Lincoln's School bell was given to a small area church when Harold and Lori Martins purchased the property.

The fire whistles at Kasota and St. Peter were used as a curfew and whistled at 9 p.m. some 60 years ago. Later, the curfew was changed to 9:30 p.m., with Kasota still using the whistle. But does anyone know what happened to the bell from the former Kasota School?

Today, several civil defense sirens are placed throughout St. Peter for emergencies. However, none of the sirens reach the decibels of the old fire siren located at the old city hall.

Some 60 years ago, 12 trains crossed at Washington and College avenues on the way west to Traverse, blowing their nistles at each crossing. On the East Side of St. Peter, trains crossed Highway 22 every day in 1937, blowing the whistle at e crossing, said local railroad man Ted Moline.

Yes, in St. Peter you can find a little bit of heaven with all the whistles, bells and chimes in action since 1856.

ne Sun Always Shines In Traverse

In the 1930's, during the height of the Great Depression, drought, dust storms and grasshopper plague, people were tertained by the attending picnics and listening to music.

The School District #3, Traverse elevator, Willow Lawn Creamery and Traverse Sewing Circle held their annual picnics . four consecutive Sundays in Hergert's woods in Traverse.

Since the picnics were the highlight of the summer, Whoopee John's old-time band from New Ulm would play all four ndays under an old oak tree in the wooded pasture.

Don Hergert remembers Gilbert Gilbertson, a local farmer and carpenter, building the pop-beer and band stands. Gilbert dn't use a rule or tape measure; he measured by using his hands like a fisherman demonstrating how the “big one” got ay.

Pop in those days was but a nickel, so the first thing we children would do was to find our grandparents, followed by cles Wally and Hartley Pell, so we were supplied with pop and ice cream for the day.

Needless to say, before the day was over we made many trips to the portion of the woods designated for the men, as ere were no satellites in those days. We learned quickly what was meant by downwind.

The entertainment, other than Whoopee John, included sack races, father-son softball game, and women's shoe kicking ntest and the wheelbarrow races. The Hergerts were good about keeping the animals out of the open area so to avoid any tastrophes or mishaps.

Speaking of Traverse District #3 school, it was September 3, 1926, when Madeline (Poncin) Peters, now 91, grandmother Herald Editor Christine Peterson, our teacher, gave me my first school spanking when she looked out of the schoolhouse ndow and caught me autographing the freshly painted men's toilet. She called me in from recess to administer the nishment. I told her I was only adding a little color to the building by writing my name with a red crayon. My beloved other “Bud” squealed when we got home. Since my dad was on the school board and mother was a former teacher, I got spanking two and three the first day of school. No wonder I never cared about school. Incidentally, the school building is w located across from the courthouse parking lot on the West Side of Front Street and is used as a sidence.

Despite the adversities during the early 1930's; the sun would always shine in Traverse.

usic Groups March Through St. Peter's History

The award winning St. Peter High School Marching Saints will have the distinction of playing ring the halftime Gator Bowl football game in Jacksonville, Florida, this December (1979).

This 110-unit high school band is quite a contrast from my high school days when in 1937; the hool district purchased 40 uniforms and a drum major uniform. Since I was the only one to fit into e drum major uniform, I had the honor of leading the band down Minnesota Avenue prior to the omecoming football game and later in the summer. In September the band went out-of-town to sota to parade down Webster Street for the Labor Day parade.

Bob Wettergren in the “New” Marching Saints uniforms in 1937

Many readers remember the city band playing on Wednesday evenings during the summer in the Gorman Park bandstand (the park named after Gov. Willis A. Gorman). In the 1930's and 40's, the late Jimmy Welsh and John R. (Rudy) Faust were the band directors. Bob Faust, Karl Klein, Ben Holteen are a few I remember who played during those years. Local church societies would take turns catering the ice cream and cake social, combating the flies, mosquitoes and sometime the rain to enrich the church coffer.

When the concert was moved to Minnesota Square in 1939 to play in the new bandstand, things were never the same, mainly because of the noise from Minnesota Avenue and a different setting.

Some of us remember when the American Legion Drum & bugle Corp with its World War I styled uniforms in the 1920's would practice weekly by parading up and down Minnesota Avenue. The cars until 1929 were parked in the middle of the street, so they marched up and west side and down the East Side. Believe it or not, we could hear the Corps three miles away in Traverse.

The American Legion Drum & bugle Corps, under the direction of Cliff & Katie Hermel, won many honors over the past years.

By the way, the city council, according to ordinance, would grant $1,000 for music in the parks so the Legion and City Council would share the allowance.

The Rock Bend Festival held in Minnesota Square the past few years has drawn music lovers from far and near. Music in Levee Park "Down by the Riverside" sponsored by the Church of the Holy Communion has drawn many local performers including Troy and Kari Gardner, who return each summer to perform. Those attending the Independence Day picnic have had the opportunity to listen and watch bands and orchestras from Germany, Norway and Sweden over the past 20 years.

For the drum & bugle corps competition at Gustavus Adolphus College the evening of the Fourth of July, some of the top corps in the country perform at Hollingsworth Field.

The past 100 years the bands, orchestra and other musical units from Gustavus Adolphus College have performed nationwide and abroad. St. Peter was the home of many dance bands. Cliff Hermel, Curt Leverson, Earl Skramstad (purple aces) and Hank Seitzer were household names the old-timers danced to.

The Nicollet County Fair officials always had municipal bands from Norseland, Nicollet, Lafayette, Bernadotte and St. Peter play before the grandstand before the afternoon and evening shows. A lot of music fans have enjoyed the many concerts and performances since the city band was transported up and down the street by the old horse-drawn cornet band wagon well over a century ago.

Many Recall Ice Harvests At Lake Emily

This past January reminded me of the days when Henry (Hank) Krohn, owner of the St. Peter Ice Co., would harvest ice from Lake Emily for the coming months ahead.

In 1927, Henry C. Krohn purchased the St. Peter Ice Co. from Fred Gerholz, which included two teams, wagons and the Wainwright warehouse that was used as an icehouse. The Wainwright warehouse, built in 1855, was where my grandpa Bill Pell at the age of 8, and his mother, along with 200 other people took refuge during the U.S.-Dakota conflict on August 23, 1862. The Krohn family purchased and lived in the Captain William B. Dodd house. Dodd was the founder of St. Peter and had the first house in the city where the first church services were held in 1854, with Episcopal Bishop Jackson Kemper presiding.

The entire population, 36 people were in attendance. The Krohns employed the late Rollie Lager year round and Cliff Strand, Leonard Vogt and others, part time.

Hank's son, Marvin ('Muvey' to his friends) said that there were three meat markets, Leverson's, Central and "Tiny Mouritsen's besides stores, bars and cafes, that were the big customers.

I will never forget when the ice men would make a delivery of ice to the National Tea store (where Sugar 'N Spice is ated) and on the way out they would snare a couple of bananas.

The manager, Henry Hokanson, at the end of the month would deduct the employee's banana bill from Krohn's ice bill. e employees found out quickly that the "hand is not quicker than the eye".

Marvin Krohn remembers delivering several loads of ice to the Wettergren Dairy farm in Traverse in the early 1930's.

My brother Bud claimed that he was stronger than Bill and I, so he ended up having the chore of hauling the ice to the k house, to ice down the cases of bottled milk.

Marv and "Red" Grange, the "galloping ghost" from the University of Illinois, had something in common. They both ivered ice in the summer and played football in the fall. Marv spend 43 years as an executive with the Green Giant Co. ile Red played professional football with the Chicago Bears.

One hot summer day, Marv said to his dad, "Dad, we are in the wrong business. I carried 35 pounds of ice up three irs, dumped the ice water from under the icebox as requested and got a mere quarter. Our friend, Joe Norman, dumps a of garbage into his truck and gets a half a dollar. The Wettergrens run up to a house, put a pint of milk in the ice box d get 5 cents."

I vividly remember the icemen and our milkmen comparing notes on the services requested by some of the housewives. dad used to say, there is a limit on some of the requests by the housewives that is beyond the line of duty.

The late Ron Wolfe purchased the St. Peter Ice Co. from Vern Johnson and ran the business for a couple of years before ling to Harlan and Gladys Anderson in 1948.

On April 10, 1951, the Andersons saw their $2,500 ice harvest go down the Minnesota River during the high water. The dersons put a small icehouse just south of their present home where they sold artificial ice until they sold the business in 59 to Jeff Morris who re-located the business at Judson.

Hank Krohn took time from his busy schedule to enjoy his favorite pastime, bowling. Hank was the first bowler to bowl anctioned 300 perfect game at Peterson's Recreation. Hank could walk on water (if it were frozen) after that coveted feat.

The old-timers who harvested the ice said that they will never forget how one of Krohn's employees would mention ery year about Rollie Lager dropping the (schizzle in the schannel) chisel in the channel while cutting the ice.

Although the St. Peter Ice Co., and many of the employees are gone, the memories of the January ice harvest will live ever.

rewell To Cow Street
mes Have Changed For St. Peter Creameries

Jody Sailor

Cow Street will never be the same again. And a look down it will tell you times have changed.

No longer will there be cows tromping down St. Peter's Front Street to cross the highway and graze at what is now eran's Field or milk being turned and churned into bottles and butter in the dairies and creameries.

As Davisco moves the former St. Peter Creamery-the last one on the affectionately called "Cow Street" to its new home Le Sueur, memories of yesteryear will stir in both communities.

Residents will remember the not-so-distant time in the 40's and 50's when milk was delivered each morning from ettergren Dairy and the Le Sueur Creamery, with "Minnesota Valley" brand butter delivered from the St. Peter Creamery to ny stores in St. Peter and Kasota to boot.

Dairy farmers will recall a time when they received $2.80 for 100 pounds of milk-trucked in 10-gallon metal milk cans-compared with today's price of around $13-taken from stainless steel bulk tanks.

Creameries dotting the countryside in Norseland, New Sweden, Ottawa, Blakeley, Traverse and near Rush River, to name a few, will come to mind-as will their erasure from the hub-bub of farm life.

"Almost every town had a dairy bottling milk. Now you can't find one," said Allen Cords of Le Sueur.

Cords remember when he bought the Le Sueur Creamery in 1947, when it was located where Valley National Bank is now. To start with, the company bottled milk and made ice cream.

"When we first got into the business, it was not unusual to find a small plant putting milk in glass bottles," he said. "Little did I realize how much change was going to take place in the dairy industry."

Eventually the business was moved to the current location of the Le Sueur Cheese Company and cheese became the business' focus as the market's demand changed.

Meanwhile, the company grew as others closed down-mainly because of economics and picked up more patrons along the way.

"It was just not practical for a small company to be in operation. You just couldn't compete," he added.

Along the way, grocery stores entered the market, packaging their own brand of milk in cartons, and pushing the rest of the industry to do the same in the late 1960's.

Cords' business opted to buy performed cartons instead of making them.

Bob Wettergren of St. Peter said Wettergren Dairy tried to avoid cartons for as long as possible.

"The machines cost so much. There was no way you could afford to buy them," he said.

Wettergren Dairy rented part of the St. Peter Creamery from Stan Davis in the 40's and 50's around about the time farmers began to sell their milk to be dried.

When the St. Peter Creamery decided to expand with drying facilities, the dairy moved to the building next door.

Wettergren has many fond memories of the business, one of, which is how his father didn't collect from many customers during the Depression because he figured he had more than they did.

Another memory is that of local boys he employed and looking at what they're doing now. St. Peter's Witty brothers were among the many, as was Mark Davis, a distant relative of Wettergren's.

Davis began working for his father at the St. Peter Creamery where he was 12, making boxes for butter and washing pipes.

"It was just an opportunity to, shall we say, spend our weekends," he quipped.

Davis now heads Davisco, a combination of the St. Peter Creamery and Le Sueur Cheese Company, with branches in Nicollet and South Dakota. The company also is completing a facility in Idaho.

Back in St. Peter, the company made "Minnesota Valley" brand butter. In 1956, it began to dry skim milk, a relatively new process for smaller companies that had become more popular with the war.

The company bought our creameries in Nicollet, Bernadotte, Mankato and Blue Earth. And in 1969, it combined with the Le Sueur Cheese Company.

Cords said the creameries had always been competitors of sorts for patrons. He laughed, “And we kept saying all the e that we should quit being competitive.”

With their combined efforts, they processed cottage cheese, sour cream and specialty cheese before settling on cheese d drying whey.

“The growth of the cheddar business did not lend itself to doing all those things also,” Davis said.

Milk was taken from St. Peter to Le Sueur to make cheese. After the process, the remaining product was shipped back to Peter to be dried.

In an effort to make the process more economical and efficient, Davisco-which it became following Cords’ retirement is rrently moving its St. Peter operation to a new building next to Le Sueur Cheese, with an incentive package from the city e Sueur.

The result is expected to be savings on both transportation and utility costs.

“I’ve lived all my life in St. Peter,” said Davis. “If I had my preference I would keep my business there all my life. The onomics don’t allow it.”

Time has changed.

e Politics Of Church Pews

In my youth, Christmas Eve started at our house on the family farm in Traverse Township when the family would pile o a car and head for Swedish grandparents’ home in St. Peter for a lutefisk supper.

As we were about to leave the farm, my mother would send brothers Bill and Bud back into the house to see that all nts were out. She wasn’t fooling us younger children as they were putting the presents under the tree so when we got me it looked like Santa was there while we were gone.

Lutefisk wasn’t a delicacy for some of us, so we had meatballs and saved our appetites for roast beef and Yorkshire dding at my mother’s English folks the next day.

When 10:30 p.m. came around we would head for church so we would get our family pew before some stranger ved. All the way to church we boys would gripe about the lateness of the service. Mother had a stock answer. “The vice is early compared to the hours you boys keep”.

I was told that Leland Stark, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College and later Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey and a red Commander of a Navy Unit, wrote memoirs that included some of the parishioners at Holy Communion during their y in St. Peter.

Going down *Memory Lane*, I shall share a few of the stories I observed about some of the people who attended this toric church over the past years.

Mrs. Greenbucks sat in the very first pew on the north side of the church and would share her pew only with Art and lla Overson family if they cared to sit on the inside. Josephine Greenbucks was a former teacher who married a ccessful businessman. During her husband’s declining years, he became forgetful and would get lost walking home. One nday the beloved Dr. F.P. Strathern said, “Josephine, you should keep a better tab on your husband, as he was seen ndering around in the north end of town.” Josephine replied, “Fred, is that your hat?” And that was the end of that nversation. This same gentleman would get as far as the L.J. Gault house on north Minnesota Avenue, when Esther Gault uld tell Sam to go out and turn Mr. Greenbucks around and tell him to keep walking straight ahead.

Behind Mrs. Greenbucks was a prominent businessman who was allergic to germs, as he would always count his money h gloves on. He sat in the second pew so he could get the sacraments before most of the congregation.

Methodist Church

Church of the Holy Communion

Union Presbeterian Church

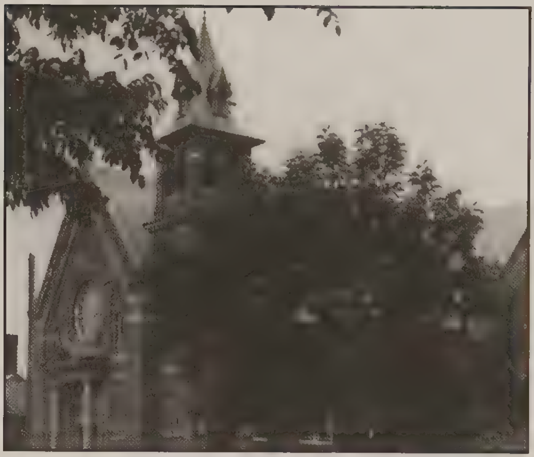
Calvary Baptist Church

Bethany Alliance Church

Sunrise
ASSEMBLY of GOD

Sunrise Assembly

First Lutheran Church



Church of St. Peter

TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church

St. Mary's Church

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

I remember when the D.J. (Dutch) Reimers occupied the "Nutmeg pew". Mrs. Nutmeg reminded Dutch that her husband's family had sat in that pew since the church was built in 1870. Dutch replied, "Do you mind if we sit in the pew behind you?"

In recent years, most congregations pass the peace during the service. Holy Communion had one parishioner, who was averse to the passing, so he knelt in prayer during the ordeal. He said, "If I want to shake hands with people, I will be like politician and go to the county fair."

Lillien (Cox) Gault and son, Norman Cox Gault, were the daughter and grandson of E. Julien Cox, the first mayor of St. Peter, and on the first Vestry of the Church of the Holy Communion. Later Lillien became the first woman mayor of any city in Minnesota, when she served the city of St. Peter in 1922. Norman was city attorney and a former alderman for St. Peter. The Gaults delighted in challenging the priest and bishops regarding church canon law and civil law, as to which prevailed. You can draw up your own conclusion with so many of the clergy in court today.

Many of the children of yesteryear had the benefit of having Lillien (Cox) Gault, Isabel Poetz, Dr. J.W. Daniels and others for their Sunday school teachers.

The well-known Daniels family sat on the left side of the church up in front. Dr. A.W. Daniels was one of the most famous doctors in Minnesota history, as he was a doctor at the lower Sioux Agency and the first person northwest of the Mississippi to use chloroform while performing surgery. His son, Dr. J.W., joined his father in medicine and church activities.

The Dodd family was in the next pew. Capt. Dodd and wife were well known as he was the founder of St. Peter and gave the land for the church. Dodd's son, Willis, would visit St. Peter and attend services until his death in 1928. He is burie at the rear of the church with his father, mother and sister.

On Christmas Eve, I wonder how a prominent lady from Le Sueur would react after losing two sons in World War II and the parents of a former church acolyte who lost his life as a Marine in Vietnam would feel during the service.

Former President George Bush requested all church people to pray for those who were about to enter the Desert Storm conflict. When the priest failed, a retired colonel in the parish stood up and reminded the priest that this is Prayer Sunday fo the service people and suggested that all present would recite the Twenty-third Psalm.

Today, one can observe a longtime parishioner pulling his watch on the Rector if he is a minute over.

Many of us remember our hero, Jim Clark, who died at the age of 95. Jim was in the Union Army during the Civil War and was decorated with medals. We were told that Jim would drop a $100 bill in the alms basin every Christmas Eve. Since we only sat a few pews ahead of Jim, we children would turn around to see what a hundred-dollar bill looked like. To our disappointment, he would put it in a church envelope.

Then there was my mother who jumped the priest about watering down the wine. Mother said "Jesus turned water into wine - you're turning wine into water.

Despite all the personalities, differences of opinion, trails and tribulations, I am sure people of all faiths found once again Peace on Earth and good will toward mankind.

Creamery Employees Rise To The Top

The recent January cold snap brings back memories of January 1936 when every day of the month was below zero.

It was in 1931 when my dad and mom started the Wettergren & Sons Dairy. It's hard to believe, but we endured the Depression, drought, grasshopper plague and several snowstorms all in one decade.

The starting of trucks before electricity and Heet got to be quite a chore. When the snow got too deep for trucks, Dad would make his daily city milk deliveries by team and bobsled. It was a thrill to stand on the runners. I remember the ekly Saturday night bath when Dad would sit on a little red chair, put us in a washtub by the kitchen stove and scrub us vn. Bill and Bud were before me and Dad would be sure they didn't carry a grudge before I got in. My sisters, Bev and ta, were lucky as they got a change of water.

I remember those cold January days and Mrs. Albert Dick would say to my Dad, "Clarence, you and the boys put your nys down and warm your tummies with some good hot soup".

While attending the wake for Charlotte Frawley Stotz, I couldn't help but think how she would rout Chuck, Tim and y out of bed to be at work by 5 a.m. in the plant or milk route. The same for Hazel Witty, who would be sure Bob, Buzz l Jim, would get to work after a football game the night before. It was amazing for one to see who was coming and going ring those early hours. I am sure my late brother, Bill, took many stories to his grave. People frequently ask me about ere some of the employees who worked on the farm, plant and routes from 1931-73, are today. So, let me take you down mory lane.

Bill, Bud and I would help Dad on the route before school. Lyle Albrecht, a minister's son who worked on the farm and tes, is a retired executive from Minnegasco. Clarence Webster is a retired owner of several sporting goods stores in the t Lauderdale, Fl, area. Larry Overn retired after many years as Nicollet County Auditor. His son Terry, who also worked us, is presently Le Sueur County Auditor. Earl Fitch, employee for the dairy from 19 years, is retired from the U.S. Post ice. The Rev. Charles Colberg is now located in Helsinki, Finland. Bob Von Essen owns Von Essen's Auto Shop and wing Service. Clyde Von Essen recently retired as an executive from the Bank of America. John Bresnahan is currently the sident of the First National Bank. The late Bill Gleason made a name for himself in the outdoor advertising business. rothy Sandeen Rud, now retired, helped mother with the books for several years. Jim (drummer boy) Holmstead retired m the U.S. postal service. Dean Anderson is now living in Mankato. Glenn Jacobsen is a retired custodian from the St. er Public Schools. Jake was delivering with Bill at Gustavus when the truck disappeared over the bank and hit Rud vson's house. Jim Gault is now semi-retired as chief of quality control for Rockwell International in California. Ray Weise red and lives up north. David Wettergren is Superintendent of Schools at Stillwater. Dr. Ray Erickson is retired and the Dick Erickson is deceased. Harry (Frill) Frey retired from the Nicollet County Highway Department. Lorraine Sharp erson is retired and the mother of 13 children. She and her husband "Bing" live in Shakopee and recently celebrated 50 rs of marriage. LeRoy Carter is one of the owners of First Michigan Investment Corporation. Verle Carter is an engineer in West Virginia area. Norris Stowell retired as plant manager for Davisco at Nicollet. Dennis Peterson retired from negasco and chief of the St. Peter Fire Department. Bob Overson is a retired professor in California. The Oles boys, Ken, , Don and Bruce, remain active in business.

Don Oles is in his 37th year with Green Giant/Pillsbury Company. Bill Pell is owner of Pell's Insurance and Real Estate, l is also chairman of the Community Bank Service Corporation. Mark Davis is president of Davisco International Co. Al nexstad is a senior vice president of Federal Mutual Insurance at Owatonna. Tom Davis is a certified public accountant in ifornia. Charlie Kirby retired from public relations at Cold Spring Brewery. Harold Bruns is retired and living in Walker. brother Wally is deceased. Arden and Myra Armstrong are retired and live in Faribault. Don Haney, now deceased, rked in the plant for 20 years. Tom Bolstad is now the business manager at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center. Larry amstad is now manager and post adjutant at the American Legion, St. Peter. Steve Wettergren lost his life in Vietnam as a rine. Dick Wettergren farms and does carpentry. Mark Wettergren is a rural letter carrier for the post office and farms. urice Ritz drives a semi from coast to coast. Harlan Anderson retired and lived in St. Peter. My wife Renee, who was co-ner and office manager at the dairy from 1955-1973, works at the SPRTC library. Our son Bob is with the First Bank at na. Don Volk (deceased) was an area high school coach. Rev. Vernal Lundeen is a retired Lutheran minister. Many stavus students worked their way through college by working in the plant or on routes. Numerous residents at the state spital worked on the farm or plant before being released. My apologies to those whom I may have missed going "Down mory Lane".

After 63 years in business and the Chamber of Commerce, my wife reminds me that a business or organization is only as od as its employees. I hope that our former customers and employees have found a "little bit of heaven in St. Peter", as have.

Baseball Fanatics Tour The Majors

by Tom West

Don't try to tell Bob Wettergren that baseball has a problem.

Wettergren recently returned from a whirlwind tour of some of the greatest cathedrals of baseball in the country as a part of the Jay Buckley Pro Baseball Route based in La Crosse, WI. Wettergren and traveling pal Tom Bolstad spent nine days on the road attending games in several major league ballparks in the Midwest and the East. This is the third such trip that Wettergren and Bolstad have taken.

"He (Buckley) arranges all of the tickets and motel rooms," Wettergren said. "The meals are all on your own." The cost of the trip is $720, even with meals and souvenirs added to that, Wettergren said the trip is worth it. "You spend what you want to spend," he said. "It's not uncommon for people to spend $500 or even $1000 on souvenirs. I have enough of that stuff the way it is. We were on the bus with teachers and preachers and bankers and even a war correspondent and his wife who had worked for 30 years for the Wall Street Journal. He had been in over 200 countries and had been in five wars. He was by far the most interesting person the trip." In all, 44 people made the trip.

"The tickets are in pretty good seats," Wettergren said. "The motels are average and the farthest bus ride we had was from Pittsburgh to Chicago, an eight hour trip."

The tour left La Crosse and went to Wrigley Field in Chicago, the home of the Cubs. From Wrigley the tour went to Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, a special stop for Wettergren.

"Milt Nielsen from town was a player for the Indians," Wettergren said. "He was with the parent team and played in the very same Municipal Stadium."

From Cleveland it was on to the shrine of baseball in America-Cooperstown, Ohio, and the Hall of Fame.

"You never get tired of Cooperstown," Wettergren said of his third trip to the museum. "It's a boy's dream to go there. After the third time it's still a joy." The first time Wettergren and Bolstad were in Cooperstown they got a taste of local fame. Oakland A's star Terry Steinbach, a New Ulm native, had his bat and glove on display for being the Most valuable Player in that year's All-Star game. "I took a picture of it and gave it to Terry's dad," Wettergren said. Wettergren described Cooperstown as a "quaint old town" where they don't allow fast food franchises inside the city limits and try to preserve some small town qualities.

From Cooperstown the tour took them to Boston and Fenway Park. "You never get tired of Fenway," Wettergren said. "We saw the Red Sox beat the Twins that day." While in Boston the tour had the chance to do some sightseeing and visit the Old North Church and go through the Boston Garden.

The trip then took a turn south and into New York and Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets. "It's a nice stadium but the area is a little scary," Wettergren said. "They have guards in the bathrooms there because of the violence."

From Shea the travelers went on to Baltimore and the immaculate new Camden Yards as well as touring the Babe Ruth museum. "There was a sell-out at Baltimore as usual," Wettergren said.

From Baltimore the tour took a turn toward Pittsburgh and Three Rivers Stadium to see the Pirates hose the Philadelphia Phillies.

The final leg of the tour brought the bus back to the Midwest. The new Comiskey Park, home of the Chicago White Sox was the real treat of the trip, Wettergren said. "Comiskey is by far the greatest park in the major leagues," he said. "It's just great, the infield is great, the seating is good, the parking is excellent and the prices reasonable."

The tour wound up back in Wisconsin with the Brewers hosting the Toronto Bluejays and former All-Star Paul Molitor. "It was a great thrill to see the welcome that the crowd gave Molitor when he returned," Wettergren said.

Seeing Cooperstown again was the highlight of the trip for Wettergren. "We got to spend the better part of a day there," said. "You kind of get an idea of what you want to see after being there before." Wettergren has a favorite exhibit to see he museum. "The picture of the first group of players inducted into the Hall of Fame is special," he said. "Players like nnie Mack, Ruth, Walter Johnson, they're the greats. Ty Cobb isn't in that picture because his train was late. There were ers taking sons on the trip with them for graduation presents or birthday presents. I can't think of a better present."

While national sports experts argue about why, how or if baseball is losing its status as the American pastime, ttergren is convinced it is solidly staying on the top.

"The attendance was great everywhere," he said. "Camden Yards was sold out, we were part of the largest attendance r at Comiskey Park and Milwaukee was full because of Molitor. Colorado is building a new stadium for the Rockies and y scrapped the plans and are going to build one with more capacity because of the popularity of baseball there."

In all of Wettergren's travels to watch his beloved sport, he still has four major league ballparks to catch a game in under sun, two of those being expansion team home fields, San Diego, Los Angeles, Colorado and Florida.

"I would like to take a trip to the West Coast," Wettergren said. "Then I'll have seen them almost all, some of them two three times. Like Dizzy Dean said, "If you done it, it ain't braggin." I would like to see them all before I check out. It's nething you dream about as a kid."

ajor League Baseball Shares 125 Years Of Memories

Since this is the 125th anniversary of Major League Baseball, several people have requested that I would share some of l baseball memories.

1933 was the year that the first American League Baseball team went to the state tourney, which was held at the versity of Minnesota. My late brother Bill, captain of the team, also had the honor of being named to the all-state team. rt Kirby and brother, Bud, are the only members of the team still in St. Peter.

The same year the town team, which was made up mostly of Gustavus Adolphus College players, won the State ateur Tournament at St. Paul Lexington Park. The only former players still in St. Peter are Herb and Elmer Martens.

In 1932, a team sponsored by my dad who owned the Wettergren Dairy took us to our first American Association game Nicollet Park to see the Minneapolis Millers play. I am sure Bob Faust remembers out team traveling to Minneapolis in l's panel delivery truck. We sent in Wheaties box tops in exchange for tickets. The Millers won in the last of the ninth en Joe Hauser hit a home run to beat Columbus 13-12.

The Fourth of July celebration at the State Hospital, what is now the Regional Treatment Center, was always held the before with baseball games, etc. I remember playing against the residents for eight years in the 1930's and later piring games for the celebration for many years. Our reward was all the lemonade we could drink plus a box of O'Henry dy bars that Dr. Freeman so generously would hand out.

Many players from our St. Peter High School team played with Traverse or St. Peter in the pastures at Traverse and nawa or the Nicollet County Fairgrounds. This was before OSHA laws.

I recall in 1939, when Oshawa beat our Traverse team in Swenson's pasture in Oshawa and went on to the State rney in Shakopee where they ended up in the semi-finals. Bob Boys and Raymond "Butts" Yost are the only two players in St. Peter. The next year the St. Peter team missed the state by one run after going to the finals of the regional tourney. ty Lutz, brother Bud and myself are the only players left in St. Peter from that team. That same year, our team traveled to tertown, S.D., in "Red" Wolfe's school bus to play in the old western league ballpark. Frank Pugsley, our pitcher, started ghing. Frank said, "See the skull and cross bones on the panel by the choke with the caption, 'Carbon monoxide kills?'" air was so blue you could hardly see Red. I think the blue air was mostly from the cigarettes. Frank, in the following rs, pitched for the St. Paul Saints in the American Association.

In 1943, Bill and I were playing for the Mankato Merchants in the Southern Minny League and were playing New Ulm in an exhibition game in New Ulm.

After the game, my mother received a call from Henry Wiest, St. Peter's number one fan saying, "Edna, Bill is in jail at New Ulm." Mother said, "You must mean Bob." Henry said, "Bill stole home and won the game 1-0."

In the late 1940's, our team was returning from Jordan when at the top of the old Le Sueur hill, Floyd Boucher, our bus driver, turned around to Bill and said, "no brakes". Bill gave one of his infamous speeches when he said, "Some of you fellows are not used to praying, but you had better start now as Floyd said we have no brakes". Needless to say Floyd, who had driven a bus since he was 15 years-old, shifted gears etc. until we safely reached the bottom of the hill. I can still hear the cheers that went up for Floyd when I recall the incident.

In 1955, the town team won the state, mostly with Gustavus players who worked at the Minnesota Valley Gas Co. Bucky Walters is the only player from that team still in St. Peter. The trophies from the town and Babe Ruth teams are in the trophy case in the foyer of the public library.

In 1957, the high school team went to state. Bill Pell was named All-Stater. Twenty-five years later his son, Lee, received the same honor. The Babe Ruth team of 1975 not only won the state tourney, but also went to the regional semi-finals at Iowa City. Several of that team's players were on the high school team in 1977 that won the Class AA tournament by beating Edina 11-1 in five innings. Bob Bresnahan and Ron Hill were named to the All State Team that year.

I am going to share a few of Halsey Hall's stories while on the subject of baseball.

Someone asked Dizzy Dean why he only went to the third grade. Dizzy said, "I didn't want to show up my old man".

When Yogi Berra was asked what he thought about a Hebrew being mayor of Dublin, Yogi replied, "It can only happen in America".

The seventh inning stretch came about when President William Howard Taft (who weighed 300 pounds) got up to stretch in the seventh. All the fans got up in respect for the president and did likewise.

When Tom Bolstad and I visited Camden Yards in Baltimore on our last tour, we met Rudy and Anna Scholl's grandson in a crowd of over 55,000 people as he was sitting a few rows behind us. What a small world.

In the Baseball Hall Museum at Cooperstown, NY, is a statue of Mudville's Casey at the bat with the inscription:

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.
Somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;
But there is no joy in Mudville – mighty Casey has struck out.

Going Extra Innings On Baseball

Since my last article on baseball, I have had several readers request that I go an extra inning and relate more incidents of yesterday.

It was no other person than John A. Johnson, while co-owner of the Herald, who recommended a farm boy by the name of Roger Denzer from Ottawa to the St. Paul Saints in the late 1890s for a tryout with that team. Roger pitched for St. Peter before going to our sister city. According to the Herald "Diamond Jubilee" edition, Roger struck out the three batters he faced against the Toledo Mudhens and was immediately signed. Later he went to the Chicago White Sox before winding up his career with the New York Giants where he pitched his famous 22-inning game in the early 1900s.

When John A. Johnson became governor of Minnesota, he hired an aide by the name of Billy Williams who served eight governors in that capacity. Billy was a great amateur baseball player, but never turned pro because of his race. Billy's friends

:ouraged him to pass himself off as a Native American, but Billy said, "No way am I going to betray my race." I had the vilege of meeting Billy many times at the Nutter home, my next door neighbors, who were great friends of Gov. John and :a Johnson and Billy.

Local baseball would not be the same if I didn't mention the great teams of Kasota when Charlie Bartels was the nager. That team, with Bud Allen, Frankie Norman, Bob Bolin (all deceased) along with Jack and Keith Halvorson, and rt Kirby was the fastest team I ever played against, which includes teams in the Western and Southern Minny. Mert Kirby l Larry Overn from out St. Peter 1940 championship team were two of the finest defensive third basemen in the area.

Kasota had two of the best right-handed pitchers in Frank "Monk" Pitman and Lyman Wildes who had not only rubber ıs, but also great control. I remember about 55 years ago, when Jerry Ewert with "Coots" Ewert catching, beat us on the sota prairie 2-0. The diamond those days was located to the left of the railroad tracks when you make a right to the liday House.

Oshawa produced Dick and John Bresnahan and Richard "Ditch" Boys who were too young to play on the state tourney m of 1939. "Ditch" played for the St. Peter High School Town Team in 1955 that won the State and St. John's University r years. Dick Bresnahan pitched and John played shortstop for Nicollet when they beat St. Peter 6-4 at Veterans Field in Peter in 1949.

By the way, according to Angie Giuliani (Twins scout) Roger Bresnahan, a distant relative of the local Bresnahans, was first catcher in the big league to wear shin-guards while catching for the White Sox around the turn of the century.

The shin-guards are displayed in the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. Since the Twins came to Minnesota in 1961, I ried many clippings of Bakers, Bowles and Bresnahans to the Twins office. As a result, I received a call one Sunday rning asking for Willard/Polly Baker's telephone number, as the Twins decided to sign Brad Baker. Later, Angie told me t if Brad were a left-hand pitcher, he should have made the big time, as lefties are hard to come by.

A few years later I suggested Angie that they give Bob Bresnahan a tryout at their minor league camp in Melbourne, FL, gie called asking for Dick's number at the Courthouse, so he could contact Bob. Bob had one of the greatest careers of player at Mankato State and was considered a great prospect.

Brad and Bob were so close, but yet so far, from baseball stardom. According to the St. Peter Herald "Diamond Jubilee," gene "Chesty" Cox was with Philadelphia until he developed what they call a "glass arm." Chesty was the son of the nous E. Julien Cox, who was St. Peter's first mayor in 1865.

In the 1930s, many local ballplayers were in the St. Peter National Guard Unit and would have to report for a two-week rning at Fort Ripley, near Brainerd, and were skeptical about being available on Sundays to play ball with the local teams. Captain Cliff Nutter (Barb Dybvig's dad) would always see that the players got home on Sundays for the big game.

I am closing with one of the late Halsey Hall's great stories. Hank Bauer, former Yankee great and later manager for ırlie Finley's Kansas City As, before moving to Oakland, was fired by Charlie, the first time, in this fashion: Hank came on the field prior to the game in a clean, fresh uniform when Charlie called Hank over to his box and said, "Hank, you ve a grass stain on the seat of your pants." Hank, also a World War II veteran, said, "Mr. Finley, that's not a grass stain on seat of my pants, it's mistletoe."

:acher Taught Him Meaning Of Respect

A few weeks ago my first grade teacher at Traverse District #3, Madeline Poncin Peters, passed away.

Madeline was the best when it came to teaching the four R's, reading, riting, rithmetic and above all, RESPECT. I still nember my first day of school on Sept. 3, 1926, when Madeline made a deep and lasting impression, not only on my ttom but also my mind.

It was a challenge for me to autograph the boy's biff with a red crayon.

As she was looking out the window, she caught me red-handed and sent one of the girls out to inform me that I should have an audience with her.

Unfortunately there wasn't a law against teachers or parents spanking. When I got home my brother and protector "Bud" blew the whistle.

Since Dad was chairman of the school board and mother a retired teacher, I had two more whippings the first day of school. Nowadays, a student would probably receive an A for writing or logic.

Before the turn of the century, ladies in the Traverse area had a sewing circle that met once a month. They would sew for the wounded soldiers during the Spanish-American War and World War I and socially provide showers for the daughters of its members. Since Cornelia Poncin was a member, my mother would always invite Madeline for lunch after school. This was a special day, as Madeline would dismiss school an hour early.

It was brother "Bud's" responsibility to take his pony and buggy to school to provide the transportation for Madeline to the farm. That infamous day, "Bud" stabled the pony at the John Westman farm (where Don and Ruth Wenner now live) for convenience sake. When school was out, he drove up with the pony and cart and relegated me to the platform of the buggy despite objection by the teacher.

When arriving at the farm, Madeline informed my mother what a great horseman "Buddy" was.

After riding a mile over a washboard gravel road and feeling every bump, I had another name for him that he and I heard many times in a locker room.

However, I had to bear the pain in fear that if I uttered the word I would get my mouth washed out with soap.

Memorial Day Talk Stirs Memories

While taking in the recent Memorial Day Services in Minnesota Square (Swede Park) many memories crossed my mind.

What would the area look like today if Joe Rolette hadn't stole the bill that would have placed the capitol on the park land?

How many veterans did I know going back as far as the Civil War, such as Jim Clark who was the Union Army and died at the age of 94.

How many servicemen that I knew who lost their lives serving in World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam so-called conflicts.

When Dr. Lloyd E. Hollingsworth gave his short but impressive speech, I couldn't help but recall the first time I saw "Holly" back in 1935, when he was performing at Cooke Hall at the University of Minnesota. Holly was not only a football and baseball player for Gustavus Adolphus College but a top-notch gymnast. Our St. Peter high School gymnastic team was competing in the high school events on the same day under Dr. Milt Gabrielsen and Bill Hansen. Holly was a close friend of the Gabrielsen twins, Milt and Bump, and their brother, Stan, as they came from Roosevelt high School in Minneapolis to Gustavus and were all inducted into Gustavus' first Hall of Fame. I remember when the city built a band shelter in Minnesota Square for the band concerts during the Depression. The public never accepted band concerts in Minnesota Square and the city had a white elephant on its hands.

Holly, who served on the city council for six years, suggested that the shelter be converted into a pavilion for picnics and events. Despite people calling the idea "Holly's Folly" the conservative-minded council, that included my dad, went along with the idea once Holly showed them a sketch of what the pavilion would look like. Holly had an architectural and construction background during his youth before past few years, as many know, the building has been remodeled.

Holly, being a World War II Navy officer and later, during the Korean Conflict, and Army officer, reminded people ing his talk of some of the crosses he had to bear at the facility meetings at Gustavus by some of the doves who were osed to the military.

Holly, wife Mrytle, and daughter Kaye, have endured grief when Lee, a graduate of the Air Force Academy and the ean War, lost his life in a plane crash while flying for his own airline.

Holly firmly believes in what the late President Richard Nixon said to the President Bill Clinton, "Keep America #1".

wn Has A Jewel In Its Midst

Marjorie Schmidt's son/Roger Schmidt

I am late with this letter, but I want to tell the people of St. Peter that they have a Jewel in their midst - that is, the St. er Community Health Care Center. I have seen so much genuine love expressed by the support staff toward my mother t I felt I must say something. I will not list names for fear of missing someone, but those of you who might read this letter ow who you are. My family and I wish to express a sincere thank you,

In family meeting with the staff, I would see tears come to the eyes of her caregivers when discussing recent events, eds, activities, etc. Mother had her standards and was not easy to care for, and yet, everyone seemed to be accepting of special wants. There was a connection between my mother and her caregivers that one seldom sees even in families.

I have had occasion to visit a number of homes for the elderly and my wife has consulted with a large health care vider. We can say that we have never seen such devotion to making a home away from home as this staff has. The ms were always clean and they never smelled like other homes. It was always pleasant to visit and the staff was very pful.

I want to express our family's appreciation for the genteel professionalism and the open love shown to my mother that de her last years as good as they could be. I only hope that when my time comes, I will find the loving care and eptance that these people provided my mother.

. Peter Loses Fine Citizen

When Marjorie Schmidt passed away several weeks ago, it seemed that part of St. Peter went with her.

Marge, one of St. Peter's notables, operated the Colonial Room at the Nicollet Hotel with her sister-in-law, Evie exstad.

The Colonial Room was one of the finest and best eating places to be found, The Lions, Rotarians, churches, Chamber ommerce, lodges and other organizations loved the food and excellent service.

The Colonial Room was graced with valuable antiques and great works of art.

Every governor of Minnesota dined or stayed at the Nicollet, since its opening in 1871.

John A. Johnson spent his honeymoon at the hotel prior to becoming governor in 1903. In the lobby of the hotel was a e picture of the five governors from St. Peter. Also in the lobby was a huge picture of the current president of the United es.

At Christmas time, people of all ages would stop at the hotel to admire the Christmas tree decorated by Roger Schmidt der the auspices of Marge.

I remember one day remarking to Marge about that old vase on the buffet. She said, with a smile on her face, "Robert, that antique is called a vass". She knew I didn't know antiques from junk.

When Marge became curator at the Nicollet County Museum and the Cox House, she would frequently stop in the Chamber office to have some letters or copies run off when time permitted. In appreciation she always remembered my secretary at Christmas.

Clair Gilbertson was groundskeeper at the Cox House for 10 years when Marge was the curator. Not once did she tell Clair what to do, as she knew he knew his plants, flowers and grass.

Marge was a one-person committee. She handled the altar at the church for 15 years and did things according to Hoyle.

Roger credited Marge for his success as she tutored him after practice at the high school, where he won 13 athletic letters. Roger just recently retired as a senior vice-president at Honeywell, and now is the C.E.O. and president of his own engineering firm in the Twin Cities. Ione "Mitzi" Furlong, Roger's sister, also graduated from Gustavus and is teaching in Ohio, where she plans to retire in the coming year.

Marge was always visible with her large hats. Sure enough, the day of the memorial service at the church, Marge's hats were on display.

In closing I would like to quote II Timothy in tribute to Marge.

I have fought the good fight
I have finished the course
I have kept the faith.

124-Year Old Myth Squelched

In 1968 the Capitol Days celebration went by the boards because of the lack of a home. Front Street by Levee Park, skating rink at Veteran's Field were all tried despite ruining the business for Mayer's Soft Water, E.C. Davis Seed Company and St. Peter Lumber.

Minnesota Square, once destined to be the site for the new capitol of Minnesota, was off limits because of a myth that no beer could be sold in Minnesota Square, or the land would revert back to the heirs that bequeathed the land to the city for park, schools, library or some other public building.

Capitol Days started in 1958, the Centennial year when Chamber officials made a jaunt to St. Paul to meet with the Governor Orville L. Freeman, requesting that St. Peter be made the honorary capital for the day during the celebration.

I remember that just prior to the trip Joe Rolette, who stole the bill that would have made St. Peter the state capital, was hung in effigy between the courthouse and Nicollet County jail land where a scaffold was erected, with the late "Babe" Kayser as hangman. Yes, there were a few unfavorable editorials to the Herald regarding the unkindly act.

The off-limits of beer in the 10 acre Minnesota Square Park was created by a well-respected teetotaler who was able to convince future alderman (Council member) that beer was off-limits, even though several of the aldermen over the years enjoyed a brew or two as guests of several local organizations.

Also, I am sure that college students from a nearby city equally enjoyed refreshments and entertainment in the park during and after park hours.

In 1970 members of the city council and parks committee challenged this 114-year old myth only to find out that the St. Peter Company gave the land to the city in 1856. The land could be used for a park, hospital, school, library or some other pubic building.

In the late 1930s the land was considered for the site for the community hospital even though Washington Elementary ool was located in the southwest corner of the park.

The old Nicollet County jail site was chosen at the corner of Washington and Broadway for the new hospital. It's ironic most of the boulders in Minnesota Square Park were gathered and placed in the center of the park, circumvented by ota stone from the old jail where the band stand was erected, and later converted into a pavilion.

In 1970 when the city council members voted 5-1 to allow a celebration in Minnesota Square, the Independence Day ebration was formed by the Chamber and has been the home of the celebration for the past 24 years.

nbassadors - St. Pat's Day (guest commentary)

Friday, March 17, 1995, will be the golden anniversary of the Chamber Ambassador's St. Pat's parade and celebration.

With the help of Shirley Kennedy (1987 Queen) I will take you down St. Pat's memory lane. In 1979 Miss Shamrock een) was "Holly" McDonough, who was selected from several contestants.

The following year, when none of the young lassies entered the contest, it was decided to pass the honor along to an n senior citizen. Thus the honor in 1980 fell on the shoulders of Nora Ryan Carter.

The same year Sam Gault, whose wife Terry is Irish, decided to purchase an authentic Irish flag from Dublin, Ireland. identally, we obtained the manufacturer's address from Irish-born Father Myles McGowan.

In 1981, the honor fell on a person who had kissed the Blarney stone, Pat Cook. In 1982 it was Molly Finch, in 1983, y Keogh, and in 1984, it was Laura Weber who will celebrate her centennial birthday this August.

In 1985, Jane Powers from Traverse was named queen. It was Jane who made the first cape and headdress that has en worn by all subsequent queens since her crowning.

In 1986 the queen was Grace Mayer, 1987, Shirley Kennedy, 1988, Gen Boys who like Shirley, was a native from nawa.

In 1989, Shirley Terry Overn was crowned queen but didn't have the luck of the Irish with her, as Greg Seitzer, parade irman, wisely canceled the parade due to a snowstorm. However, Shirley a native of Le Center, where her late dad was ner mayor, rode in their St. Pat's parade.

In 1990, Fran Connor was the queen, 1991, Gladys Eaton, 1992, Josephine Osborne, 1993, Mary Donery, and 1994, ie Schroepfer.

The 1995 (golden anniversary) remains a well-kept secret at this writing. However, we know that Bob Bruns will be the nd Marshal as the president of the Ambassador is usually the G.M.

In 1990, Keith Connor (deceased) was named the Honorary Grand Marshal. Dr. Joe Sheehan and Greg Seitzer are past ade chairman, with Mike Riley, Billy McCabe and Bob Strom heading up the parade committee for the past two years.

Three of the queens have passed away since the beginning of the celebration, namely Nora Cater, Grace Mayer and dys Eaton. Awards have been given annually for the best-dressed woman, man, boy, girl, best float and the largest clan.

The Connors, Kaveneys, Kennedys, and Osbornes have usually won the largest clan honors.

The ticket drawing winners for the past several years have won a shopping spree at Erickson's More 4.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to all the queens and Irish people with the following blessing:

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sunshine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Parsons Will Be Missed

To the Editor:

The sun that always shines in Traverse was partially covered this past week with the passing of Vena Parsons.

This jovial, congenial person brought happiness to many people as a teacher, elevator manager and as owner/operator of the Traverse Cafe. People from all walks of life enjoyed her culinary and agricultural expertise.

Vena and Jim Weisgerber, former editor/owner of the St. Peter Herald, delighted people worldwide with B.S. diplomas from the mythical University of Traverse. Vena was known as the provost and Jim as the director of public relations at this well-known institution. Newspaper, large and small, enjoyed writing articles about Traverse University.

One thing that people will remember about Vena was the Chamber-Traverse hog roast where farmers/business people would get together on Labor Day for a game of softball, followed by pork and refreshments.

To Vena and Jim, although you have passed from us, your memories will live forever.

Davis Family Earned Honors

To the Editor:

Three generations of the Stan and Gloria Davis family, owners of Davisco International, Inc., were honored for 50 years in the Dairy Processing Industry.

Since I was operating the Wettergren Dairy milk processing plant in the east end of the St. Peter Creamery building in 1943, I was there the day when Stan Davis and Harvey Parsons, two well-known buttermakers, took over the operation from Soren Smidt.

When Davis converted the operation to a drying plant in 1955, the St. Peter Creamery was the last creamery in Nicollet County to manufacture butter, as was the Wettergren Dairy the last milk bottling plant in Nicollet County in 1973. Along the way, Stan acquired Bernadotte and Nicollet Co-op creameries, the closed Land O' Lakes plant at Lake Norden, SD, and the Le Sueur Cheese plant. The St. Peter operation was closed when the plant at Le Sueur was expanded this past year.

Recently, Davisco International, Inc. built the most modern computerized cheese plant under one roof in the United State at Jerome, Idaho. Equipment people whom I have known for 53 years described the Jerome, Idaho plant as beyond one's comprehension.

A few weeks ago, friends, buying, suppliers and business associates from the Netherlands, Germany, British Isles, Japan and the United States gathered in Le Sueur to pay tribute to Stan, Mark and Mary, and their children, Mitch, Marty, Matt, Jon and Julie, for their worldwide contribution to the dairy industry.

As the late Dizzy Dean once said, "If you done it, it ain't braggin".

nak’s Efforts Win Praise

the Editor:

Kudos to Miles Lunak for his community pride in caring for the flowers in the 400 block (west) of Minnesota Avenue the t 20 years.

The Retail Council of the Chamber honored this dedicated man at a retail meeting in 1980 with an engraved sprinkling . which he still uses and has displayed in his shop. In 1981, the Chamber recognized Miles for his 50 years as a supreme e cobbler to the community. He has been in business longer than anyone in St. Peter, having come to St. Peter in 1931. h the once-proposed mall now dead, Miles and his good wife, Dorothy, will no longer fear the condemnation of their siness property and home, and can live out their days in peace and harmony. Yes, Miles there is a “Little bit of Heaven in Peter”.

nd Memories Of Christmas’ Past

Since the Advent season is upon us, let me share ne of my memories of yesteryear.

The Nativity scene under auspices of the Knights of umbus that was displayed between the Nicollet unty Courthouse and jail, drew attention and many nments.

The Christmas tree at the Nicollet Hotel lobby corated by Roger Schmidt and his mother Marge, was oyed by all youngsters, especially the children of the ns Club members who held their annual Christmas rty at the hotel.

I remember when Renee and I lived on Minnesota enue, our older girls would look out the bedroom ndow and would see the city-lighted evergreen tree t divided the highway from Skaro to Ramsey streets. e big evergreen tree that stood where the Kiosk now n Minnesota Square Park, was another gift decorated the city.

Christmas 1935
Clarence & Edna Wettergren Family
Bob, Bud, Bill, Beverly & Anita

Schools, churches, and lodges were prominent places for Christmas programs and parties. I remember my mother telling a girl taking part in a Christmas program at one of the local churches who got the sniffles so bad that she lifted up her ess and blew her nose in her petticoat. This same girl became the valedictorian of her high school and college graduating sses.

I remember nearly 60 years ago, and perhaps 60 pounds lighter, that my high school gymnastic coach, the late Bill nsen, and I would put on a hand-to-hand balancing act at the Odd Fellows and Masonic Christmas parties.

Recently, while attending the dinner and fund-raiser for the Citizens’ Scholarship Foundation of America for the “Dollars Scholars”, I couldn’t help but recall when some of the speakers, including Bill Pell and Stuart Johnson, were giving their itation on the dais of the Masonic hall some 50 years ago. I am sure speakers Carl Johnson and John Bresnahan did ewise in their churches and schools. The L. J. Gault family, that included Jim, Mary Lincoln, Sam and Pernell, were always od for a few musical numbers at the Masonic Christmas parties. Helen Bornemann, a teacher in the public schools and a mber of the Eastern Star for 70 years, seemed to be a fixture at the piano for all the lodge occasions. At the end of the ogram followed by a big lunch, 200 bags of candy and apples were handed out to the kids and their guests to take home.

The church women, lodges and service clubs would make it a point to see that the 2,600 residents at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center would receive gifts. Today the Volunteer Council sponsors a tea the first Saturday in December, so people can bring gifts for the residents of the institution.

During my 19 years with the Chamber of Commerce, I was delegated to act as Santa Claus, mainly to save the Chamber $100 per year. The Chamber of Commerce would sponsor yearly sleigh rides and movies for the kids. I remember one year, when the driver was adjusting the bridle, the horses took off. I shoved my son off the sleigh and I took a tumble, ending up a few feet from the frozen mill pond. Also, when at the theater, I asked a youngster what his name was and what he wanted for Christmas, he replied, "I just told you at the sleigh ride". He turned to his mother and said, "What a dumb Santa Claus". She patted the brat on the head as if she agreed with him.

As a youngster, while living in Traverse, I remember going to my Swedish grandparents' home on Christmas Eve for a lutefisk dinner followed by midnight church service. I often wondered if some of the parishioners would smell the aroma of lutefisk when we sat down, as there seemed to be a number of them who would turn around.

Yearly, we children would complain about the lateness of the service. My late mother would remind us that many nights we would come in after midnight, so we had no sympathy from here for a once-a-year late service.

I am sure that many worthy families found a little bit of heaven in St. Peter when some of the businessmen and professional men would mark the family bill "paid in full" with the joyful words "Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year".

"Mr. St. Peter" Moved On To New Challenges ✍

By Don Stoner

"Grow old along with me–The best is yet to be."
-Robert Browning

It's a phrase that Bob Wettergren lives by.

As Wettergren retires from his post as executive vice president of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, he reflects on his years of service to the community he loves a community that has dubbed him "Mr. St. Peter".

Eyes wander to the pictures Wettergren and celebrities from the world of sports and entertainment that have visited St. Peter in the past. People whom Wettergren is proud to call his friends.

He takes off his glasses and wipes his eyes.

"I think I'll miss the direct contract with local people here," he said. "Along the way, I've planted some seeds, and in a very short time I'm sure the city will reap the harvest."

Wettergren, 70, will step down later this month from a full-time post he has held since 1973, to work part-time promoting tourism to St. Peter.

He points out the window of his office on Front Street toward Riverside Park and the site know occupied by St. Peter Lumber, explaining a bit of history.

"See where that stone is out there," he asks. "My granddad worked out there as a young lad. And his father came from England and ran a hotel where St. Peter Lumber is. Here I'm sitting two rods away from where my granddad worked and a half-block from where my great-granddad worked."

He is a fourth-generation Peterite, and has lived "half the life of St. Peter," he said.

"To me, St. Peter is a little bit of heaven," Wettergren said. "That's what I tell people when they ask me about St. Peter. It's a little bit of heaven."

He took over the family business, Wettergren Dairy, from his father Clarence in 1955, and sold it to Clover Leaf, Inc., in 3. A week later, he was named manager of the city's Chamber of Commerce office.

Previously, Wettergren had served for two years as the chamber president, a board member for six years, and served mberships on the city council, community education council, planning commission and development commission.

In his years of service, he saw business and industry expansions continued development of tourism, and a confident ude in the city's future.

He tells stories of famous visitors to St. Peter: Carl Pohlad, Tony Oliva, Halsey Hall, Stanley Hubbard, Bill Carlson, Bob tsema, and the list continues on and on.

He tells of the time that Pohlad, the Twins' owner, came to town, and the protection that was required for his visit and appearance at the Metrodome.

"Carl said to me that if you sell 500 tickets (for a Twins game), I'll put on a picnic for you for free. So we sold 500 tickets l had 11 buses full of people to go (to the metrodome)," Wettergren said.

"We had to make sure we knew everybody on the bus. I had to know everyone and by the end, I did know everyone."

Wettergren probably knows virtually everyone in St. Peter, either through relationships or meetings.

"My brother and I knew every house in town at one time," he said. "I feel very fortunate that I was brought up in a ll town."

It's that attitude that has made him popular among area residents.

He has been one of St. Peter's most visible citizens, appearing on several hundred radio and television shows, including er 500 of his own city profile programs on St. Peter Public Access. He has written more than 170 articles for various vspapers, and will continue after he retires, he said.

He helped set up "one of the finest tourism offices in the state," he said, which has drawn visitors from around the ntry and all over the world to St. Peter and the Minnesota River Valley.

Tourism and business go hand in hand, he said, which is why he still loves giving tours and explaining the many facets his community to visitors.

It's also that optimism that keeps him a supporter of community activities, including the more than 40 parades and 40 quets he has worked with in the many years of service to St. Peter. He's welcomed home numerous athletic teams from e tournaments, and has been on successful athletic teams himself.

"It's great to be optimistic; however, you have to be realistic as well," Wettergren said.

"You can't always start on a shoestring and make it. That's why so many businesses fail in the first couple of years," he d.

But it is the successes over the failures that Wettergren lives by. It's the friends he makes the highest form of success that the most important to him.

"One of Gov. John Johnson's favorite expressions was, 'I never forgot a friend, nor did I remember an enemy,' ttergren said. My reply to that is that I hope to God I don't have too many enemies. I enjoy the people here."

City Is Better Off With SPRTC

Ever since "Jolly" Joe Rolette stole the bill that would have made St. Peter the state capital, the question arises "is St. Peter better off today by losing the capital and gaining the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center?"

Without the least equivocation I say definitely yes.

The St. Peter Company, when losing that state capital in 1858, set forth to located the first state mental hospital in St. Peter by purchasing the 210-acres Dorrington farm for $7,000 and turning the land over to the state of Minnesota for the institution.

Attempts have been made over the years to move the institutions to the Twin Cities area beginning as early as 1893 when the editor of the St. Paul paper led the drive. Again, in 1936 and 1974 a movement was under way to move the Minnesota Security Hospital to the Twin Cities. In 1990, the Johnson Chemical Center, although standing on its own financially, was nearly closed. Each time the Chamber, AFSCME and administration worked harmoniously to retain the institutions in St. Peter.

I remember well when then Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich and his aides visited St. Peter for a day and viewed the "Story of St. Peter" in the old Chamber office with then chamber president Don Neiman and myself, thus gaining a better insight and understanding of St. Peter.

Because of the determination of the people of the St. Peter area, a new $10 million facility was built on the upper campus of the treatment center. In a few years, an $8,100,000 facility will be built on or adjacent to the present Minnesota Security Hospital creating 50 new positions.

The payroll at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center in 1975 was $6,400,000 for 545 employees. Today, the payroll is $34,500,000 for 900 full and part time employees. Can you imagine what 50 new positions will mean to the economy of St. Peter?

People of St. Peter shouldn't think of only what the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center can do for them monetarily, but what they can do for the treatment center. Especially in volunteerism. Marietta Kendall has given over 10,000 hours. Yours truly has employed or worked with residents of the institutions for over 50 years and am presently on three committees. Get involved, you will find it worthwhile.

Yes, St. Peter is better off with the treatment center than the state capital.

A Tour Of Front Street Reveals Many Local Landmarks

Several people have asked me to write a story on Front Street, nicknamed by early residents "Cow Street" since so many residents along the Minnesota River on Front Street grazed their cows along the bank.

Joe Volk and Carl W. (Chuckie) Schmidt served as guides, since they lived all their lives in St. Peter, grew up on Front Street and have a wealth of knowledge about St. Peter. Chuckie, by the way, was in the second grade when Gov. John A. Johnson passed away Sept. 20, 1909.

Heading North from the Engesser Brewery on the West Side of Front Street

We started at the former Engesser Brewery in the southeast part of town and proceeded down the west side of Front Street. The brewery was built in 1856 and now houses Don Wilde's Widen Tool and Henry Winkler's Welding and Repair Shop. The next business was the Land O' Lakes Feed Store, followed by G.T.O. Enterprises, now the St. Peter Cabinet Shop.

The next historic building on Front and Grace streets was the Nutter Blacksmith Shop owned by Charlie Nutter and later his son Cliff. Today, Marshall Anthony owns the building, where he has his law offices. Across the street, kitty corner,* was Jack Mollert and Taffy Bolstad's cement works. Let's cross back again to the west side of the street.

A block further to the north was the Nicollet County Telephone Exchange on the corner of Front and Nassau Streets. building was replaced in 1961, when U.S. West built a new building on the corner. Across Nassau is the St. Peter Public ary. The building was built by Earl Lomis as an auto diagnostic center and later sold by his son Clint, to the city of St. er. On the end of the block was the Northwestern Hotel, which was destroyed by St. Peter's worst fire in 1887. My great- dfather, W. W. Pell, was employed at the hotel when he first arrived from England in 1854. Standard Lumber eventually over the property. Duane and Brenda DeBlieck purchased the business which Duane managed for years and changed name to St. Peter Lumber.

Across Park Row to the north was the E. C. Davis Seed Company. E. C. Davis' son, Clayton, sold the corner lot to the Bliecks, who demolished the building and now use the lot to store materials. The next place to the north was Henry C. midt (Chuckie's father), who operated a saloon and livery stable on the premises. The Bornemann Hide & Fur Business in the next building. Originally, the building was a school. When Ed Bornemann and daughter Dorothy passed away, d and Ceil Headlee took over the building for their egg produce business, which they operated for 35 years until Boyd eed. The building on the corner was the Woehler Bros. Tin Shop. Ed and George operated the business until retiring. ing the river days, the building was where one of St. Peter's 17 saloons was located. Recently, the St. Peter Food Co-Op ved from the premises to a new location and the Geldner-owned building was then leased to Dr. Paul Herberg and Paul nson and wives for the Aartvark Pets Inc.

adway Avenue and Front Street

Across Broadway Avenue to the north was the White Eagle Oil Station with Earl "Kid" Witte as lessee. Since Earl was ing football at Gustavus, and later professionally with the Green Bay Packers and Philadelphia Eagles, he employed Joe and Paul Haesecke as attendants. The St. Peter Woolen Mill and Hatchery, owned and operated by Charlie and Evelyn ker, operated north of the oil station. Today Chuck and Mary Lue Brinker own the entire half-block plus the current St. er Food Co-op building.

On the corner of Front and Chatham Streets was Captain W. B. Dodd's house, the first house in St. Peter, built in 1853. It in this house where Bishop Jackson Kemper conducted the first Episcopal services with St. Peter's entire population of n attendance on Oct 27, 1854. The Krohn family lived there many years before Earl and Audrey Hanson purchased the se.

ding South

Now, we come to a dead end, so we make a 180-degree turn and start on the east side of Front Street heading south.

Albert Erickson's lumber yard graced the east side of Front Street. Zona Mans had her license bureau in the lumber yard ce for many years. Today, the remodeled lumber building is owned by Clyde (Buck) and Lois Wilde, who have their g quarters and construction business in the building, along with Barry Wood's plumbing and heating business. The next ness south was the Wettergren Dairy plant, which operated there for 20 years. Cloverleaf purchased the Wettergren ness from Bob and Renee in 1973, when Bob became St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce manager.

Carlton "Nookie" Anderson has his auto repair business south of the now empty lot. The stone Wainwright warehouse the next business that later became the St. Peter Ice Co. and was operated by the Henry Krohn family until Harlan and lys Anderson purchased the business. During the flood of 1952, the east end of the ice building and the ice harvest ed up in the Minnesota River. The building to the south was the St. Peter Creamery built in 1907. An addition was built e creamery in 1936, to house the Wettergren Dairy processing plant until its move to the north in 1954. Stan Davis, er of the creamery, enlarged the plant several times when he put in a drying operation. The name was changed to isco International, as it was shipping the milk products worldwide. Two years ago Stan and his son Mark moved the ration to Le Sueur, where they had a large cheese operation. On the corner of Front Street and Broadway Avenue was St. Peter Feed Mill and Wally Michels' Tavern with barber "Speeder" Gilham's shop in the rear of the building.

adway Avenue and Front Street

Across Broadway in Levee Park is the Chamber of Commerce building. The building was formerly Twin City Savings & , located on Minnesota Avenue. The property was purchased by Erickson's More-4 for expansion. The building was n to the chamber and also housed the Tourism Bureau, United Way, St. Peter Development Corporation and mini- loyment offices. Mayer Soft Water was located on the south end of Levee Park, Today Paul (Gus) and Kris Davis own soft water business and building, having purchased the business from the Mayers. On the other side of the municipal ding was Seitzer Implement until they sold the building to the city. Now, the NAPA auto part business is in the building.

Next to Seitzer Implement was the H. B. Seitzer Ford, located to the south for 35 years before H. B. Seitzer traded the Seitzer building and parking lot with the city for Seitzer's new location on the north end of St. Peter.

The next business south was the Nic Borsch Dairy operation. Lennie and John Vogt had their mink business on the next corner for many years. Next door lived Carl (Chuckie) Schmidt. What a coincidence that the three musketeers, Carl Schmidt, Carl Feldman, and Carl Jensen (who spent most of his time with his grandfather and grandmother Hensel at their home on Front Street) were great buddies and all did extremely well in the business world. It's no secret that Carl and wife Verna had the finest mink in North America at their Ottawa Fur Farm.

Up the street a few blocks was the Fiedler Concrete business and building, whose owners built many of the foundations for three generations in the St. Peter area.

Finally, we come to the Engesser Pop Factory, across the street from the brewery. When the factory closed in the late 1930's, the building became Howard Mallom's egg plant. Today, Bobby Geldner owns the property and houses his construction business in that location.

Now we have reached a dead end on the south end of Front Street and have ended up from "whence we came." We know other businesses existed on Front, but I believe Joe, Chuckie and I have given you the highlights of this famous street.

*Author's note. According to the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition, "kitty-corner" or "kitty-cornered" is a variation of "catercorner" or "catercornered," meaning "on a diagonal or oblique line." Take your choice. (R. W. W.)

How's Your Third Street Knowledge?

Recently Joe Volk and Carl "Chuckie" Schmidt and yours truly, for old time's sake, took another tour down memory lane.

First let me say that we are sure other businesses or buildings occupied Third Street, but neither space nor time permits the entirety, so we ask you to fill in the gaps.

Broadway Avenue and Third Street

We started on the east side of Third Street, with the William Kohl Wagon Shop and residence on the corner of Broadway and Third. Some of the businesses later in that location were Eddie Weber's Refrigeration, Pantry Grocery, Olson/Olson Accountants and now Marie Dranttel's Tax and Accounting Firm.

Across Broadway, where the Hoffmann Center Offices are, was a huge garage built by Wilbur Doty, later John Dongelinger's garage, followed by Engesser Circus winter quarters, Nicollet County Seed Co., and Cargill Seeds, before demolition of the building. The new building on that corner was recently purchased from Steve Hokanson who had a meat market on the location.

Hannah O'Brien owned and lived in the huge brick house now owned and occupied by Harold "Peanuts" and Holly Coulter. The wooden duplex to the south was once occupied by the Bundes and the Lavines and others, before Dr. Robert C. Dahleen, Sr. moved his dental office into the downstairs quarters from the Covell complex next door. At the end of the block is a three-story brick building on the corner of Park Row and Third which was Ted Knoll's Merchantile and Saloon before being purchased by Dr. W. W. for his medical practice and a hospital. Later, Covell converted the three-story building into apartments. Patrick's Saloon now occupies the corner building.

Third and Park Row Streets

Across the street is the Snyder Drugs parking lot. On the lot once stood a brick building built by W. A. Pell for a livery stable back in 1870. This is where Pell traded horses with Jesse James on his way to Northfield in 1876. Later the building was used as a garage by Miller Bros. and Joe Olson, followed by Gene Ney and Jim Randolph before being demolished by Bob Swedberg for a parking lot for Swedberg Drugs, before selling to Snyder's. Next door, the J. P. Spiess Shoe and Repair p stood where the alley is back of the American Legion building. The building was demolished when J. P. passed away ie 1930s. Bob and son Chet Rasmussen demolished Kopp's Saloon building in 1930. to erect the Model Dairy building. t eventually sold the building to the American Legion William R. Witty Post for their quarters.

hird Street and Nassau Streets

Across the street, on Nassau and Third, is the First National Bank. Previously on the corner was Hughes Bros. nk/Leo) garage, followed by Wolfe-Lomis garage, Cy Kruse's, and finally Gosewich's furniture. Behind the bank to the th was the "Hank" Galles Welding Shop. South of Galles was Haney's Bar and Hotel, once known as Rheaume's Hotel Bar. The bank picked up all the property west of the alley in the 300 block for their use.

d and Grace Streets

Across the street, on Third and Grace Streets, was Lampert Lumber, which occupied the entire quarter block before the chase of the Monahan Lumber on the north end of St. Peter, now called United Building Center. No Frills now occupies corner where the lumber yard was.

d and Mulberry Streets

The St. Peter Fire House is on the corner of Mulberry and Third streets. Years ago Hullet Furniture occupied the corner, re the Nicollet County Highway Department took over the corner and erected a new building about 1961, which is now Fire Department building.

South across Mulberry Street is the Nielsen Chev-Olds-Geo building. Once upon a time the corner was a recreation lot the youth. The property was sold by the city to Clements Auto before the purchase by the Nielsen family. South of sen's was the St. Mary's Rectory and Church, the church being built in 1889. The buildings have since been razed when Mary's and the Church of St. Peter Catholic churches merged. The property is now owned by Erickson's More 4. South of once-church property is Erickson's More 4 store. On that corner, where the store is, was the Gus Carlson house. Gus and brother Frank owned the St. Peter Sidewalk Co., the entire block was re-zoned for Erickson's More 4 store.

In the last block east, before the park, once stood the Glass neighborhood Grocery Store, owned and operated by Art ss' mother.

hird and Locust Streets Heading North

Coming back on the west side of Third Street is the Union Presbyterian Church built in 1871 when Traverse des Sioux St. Peter Presbyterian churches merged.

On the corner of Third and Walnut stands what was called the Ewing House, later the Brinkman apartments. This white tment house was the first building for the mentally ill in Minnesota. During the conflict in 1862, the building housed gees and the wounded.

Kitty-corner* from the once St. Mary's Church was the St. Mary's School. It was demolished when John Ireland's new ool was erected in 1925. Jim and Wanda Yost now live in their duplex where the school once stood. Let's cross back and tinue.

Konsbruck Building

On the corner of Third and Mulberry was Olson Shoe Repair, followed by a photo studio. The building was demolished parking for the Red Men Lodge and Club. The Red Men not only own the parking lot but also part of the Konsbruck el building where they have their bar and meeting rooms. Jim Welsh and later Art Overson once operated their barber ness in part of the building. The Konsbruck building once housed Tegner & Peterson Grocery, Nicollet County Historical ety, and many other businesses over the years. Today the Chestnut Tree Cafe and Third Street Seconds (used clothing) located in the Konsbruck building.

The building to the north is Susie's Cats Away Cafe. Susan Lynn Steffensmeier purchased the building and cafe from er Gaines. Years ago, the building housed Andy Colberg's Welding Shop, Bud Anderson's Welding Shop, the Jerry Tardy- Konechne Minneapolis-Moline, and Hinnenthal & Stindt Outdoor Motors.

The Neubert Hatchery building was on the corner of Third and Grace. The building was purchased later by the county the Nicollet County Historical Society. Larry Luedke and Dave Haack purchased the building from the county for ndry Plus. When Larry went west, Barb Haack purchased the building for her St. Peter Real Estate Business.

Across Grace Street is the Byron Kleist Insurance and apartment building. This building was built by Dr. Karl Burch for his osteopathic office and living quarters in 1939. The building once housed the American Legion rooms. Larry Luedke recently sold the building to Byron Kleist. The next building north is Olmanson Diagnostic Center Clinic where Dr. Don and daughter, Dr. Schelli Olmanson McCabe have their offices. Years back, Fredricksen Construction (Ole and son Harding) had their shop there. Mert Kirby moved the Kaisersatt dental office to the Fredricksen location for his accounting firm. Mert sold the building to Dr. Don when Mert retired. The next building north is the old Fire Station-City Hall built in 1886. This building is now owned by Tim and Barb Fister where, until recently, they had Tomte Toys. The Post Office has been on the corner of Third and Nassau since 1917.

Third and Nassau Streets

Across Nassau is the Nicollet County Bank. Years ago the Baberick sisters, Emma and Bertha, had a florist shop and the two rental units next door. They were demolished to make room for the bank. The Heilman Rest Home was the next business with Miner's WNAX station on the other side, just before you get to Veith Bakery. Veiths have been on the corner of Third and Park Row with a bakery since 1917.

Third Street and Park Row

Across Park Row from Veith's was a monument works. The name escapes Clarry Veith and other at the present. Bolton & Menk had their offices where the Minnesota School Board Association had their offices, the building was sold to attorneys Bill Gustafson and Malcolm MacKenzie, who rent the building to Hoffmann Community Services.

Third Street and Broadway

On the corner of Third and Broadway, where Auto Service Center is, Haugdahl Oil Co. was started in 1927 by Ab and brother Sig Haugdahl. Sam Haugdahl leased the building when he moved his station to Minnesota Avenue.

Thanks to Joe and Chuckie for the trip down Third Street. I trust that you will recall some of the changes along with us.

*Author's note. According to the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition, "kitty-corner" or "kitty-cornered" is a variation of "catercorner" or "catercornered," meaning "on a diagonal or oblique line." Take your choice. (R. W. W.)

Do You Know Your Main Street History?

Chestnut Street and Minnesota Avenue

It's time for a walk down our Main Street of the past. Let's start with the west side of Minnesota Avenue (Highway 169) with the land that Capt. William B. Dodd and his wife Harriet gave the Church of the Holy Communion when he founded St. Peter in 1853. Adjacent to the church to the south was Jules Annexstad's service station that he ran for 40 years. Many others since Jules have operated the station, the last being Bob Millard's Amoco station that has been empty for two years.

The Johnson & Co. Building

Across Broadway to the south is a three-story brick building that was known as the Johnson & Co. overall factory until Red Owl moved into the south portion of the building. The first building on that corner was a three-story wooden structure that was designated to be the temporary Capitol of Minnesota. When St. Peter failed to get the Capitol, the Nicollet County Court House was moved from Traverse des Sioux to that location in 1858 and the City of St. Peter took over the building when the new Courthouse was completed in 1881. Fire destroyed the building in 1884. After Johnson & Co. closed, the Red Owl store was located in the building until their departure from St. Peter. Today Dr. Steve Moore and Collective Memories occupy the north side of the building and Video Magic and Subway in the south portion, with Nicollet County Human Services on the second floor.

Dempsey Dray & Coal was to the south of the Johnson building. The Ludcke Theater complex was south of Dempsey's. The complex, besides the theater, also had two stores. North of the theater, over the years were Geldner Feeds (before furniture) and Hartman Shoe Repair. South of the theater was what was called the Sportsman Club Tavern that kept many rummy players busy during the noon hour. H.B. Seitzer & Co. had the Ford garage south of Ludcke's and remained there until 35 years ago. All the buildings from the Johnson building to the Nicollet Plaza have been demolished for parking.

On the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Park Row are the Wells Fargo Savings and Loan and Morning Glory Design, n several apartments in what was called the old Nicollet Hotel. In the hotel was a bar and barbershops on the corner with eral well-known barbers occupying that corner of the building. The barbers included Leonard Weibel, Art Overson and eder Gillham among the list.

Across Park Row was the service station that “Tuddie” Lindenberg opened about 1929. Earl Lomis rented a portion of west end for his Lomis Motor Parts and Repair. LeRoy/Agnes Stensby purchased the building for their dry cleaning iness. Today, the business is owned by Deb Bakken.

South of Stensby’s is April Fool’s antique store. Years past it was Walter Lampros Sweet Shop. Tony and Mary Bravo with Widi took over the business from Lampros family. Later Ray Dick and others had a Coast-to-Coast store in that location.

South of April Fool’s is the Swanbeck building, now owned by John and Phyllis Elbert, where they have an antique e. The Swanbecks, many years ago, had a confectionery store that was later sold to what we called the “three teddy rs” Gus, Frank and Carl Swenson. The business called College Inn was sold to the Hauser brothers who later sold to Gib Helen Ewalt, who operated a drug store with a soda fountain.

The Ewalts sold to Larry Dry, who operated out of that location until moving north to the Bornemann building. Dr. orge Swanbeck had his dental offices on the second floor until his loss of life in the early 1950’s.

To the south is the Four Seasons building owned by David A. Johnson. The building, owned by the Cook family, had a e, a hotel and the Cookie Jar, which was located in the basement. In 1930, when Cooks built an addition to the cafe-el, J. C. Penney rented the new addition for their business. When Penney’s closed, Pete and Anita Pedersen opened a gmo store. After several years it was sold to David and Ron Johnson.

The Johnson brothers opened the Four Season Floor Covering business and Ron remained there until building a new lding on old Highway 169. Johnson, the owner of Four-Seasons Mall besides having his Insurance/Investments business he mall, leases to Glen Zabel hairstylists, H & R Block Tax Service, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, J & B Cards & Collectibles Gilberto Computer Assist Services.

Across the alley was the S. O. Strand Millinery store, one of the oldest buildings in St. Peter. Upon the death of Mrs. nd, the building housed Kurth’s Barbershop, later Neil’s, Earl Mayo Barber and Beauty Shop, and Loren Barclay. Today Main Street Hairstylist occupies the building.

To the south is what we as youngsters called the Burg building. (Alan’s grandparents.) It housed King’s Bakery, Stein’s kery, Rolling Pin Bakery and later Grue’s Bakery until going out of business. Today, Steve Drummer has his Wood Etc. inet business in what was the bakery.

The south portion of the building was the National Tea Store operated by Henry and Ione Hokanson, later by Lawrence rso. When National Tea moved out, Eddie and Claire Hanson operated a Gamble Store in that portion of the building. on Eddie’s death, the quarters became the Sugar N’ Spice Cafe started by the Grues and remains a restaurant. Steve mmer owns the building today and has several apartments on the second and third floor.

In the 1930’s, George T. Olsen and Emerson Hopp and later Bill Gustafson had their attorney’s offices on the second or over the bakery. Dr. E. G. Olmanson, M. D. and Dr. Helge Sandelin, D. D. had offices over the National Tea when first ning to St. Peter.

The Adolph Bornemann building was the next to the south. It housed Rube Seibert’s Central Meat market and Adolph’s chine Shop in the rear. Larry Dry purchased the building and moved his drug store from the Swanbeck building into his w location. Upon Larry’s death, Ken Odell took over the drug store. When Ken went out of business, Gump Lyons ened a bar on the premises. Today, Willie Walter has a business known as Willie’s Tavern. On the third floor of the lding was where the Red Men Lodge met for years.

Old Nicollet County Bank Building

The former Nicollet County Bank complex was on the corner of Park Row and Minnesota Avenue with a store building he north. Andy Cook had a cafe in the building before moving to the Cook building. The St. Peter Cafe, owned by

Janinsky, was followed by Bonnie-Lou's Dress Shop owned by Lou Lurth and, later Norma Johnson MacKenzie, in the store building. Eddie and Claire Hanson operated their Gamble Store in the location before moving to where National Tea was.

John Nelson, now of Fargo, opened a shoe store followed by Don Burch, who later moved the business to the 300 block. Tom and Marilyn Hawkins, who came to St. Peter 34 years ago and bought out Ordal Jewelry, moved the business from Nassau Street to the present location.

The old Nicollet County Bank building not only housed the bank but a barbershop with Augie LaCroix, Jimmy Welsh, Godell and others. George Lesnar now operates the barbershop. Upstairs over the bank was Stone and Anthony and later the Bill MacKenzie Law Offices. Adolph Burmeister operated the Nicollet County Farm Loan Offices there also. Dr. Stan Kaisersatt, D. D. had his dental offices across the hall, above where Hawkins is located.

When the Gault family decided to move the operation of the Nicollet County Bank to its new location over 30 years ago, the building was sold to Ellery Peterson for his accounting business. Later, the St. Peter Savings & Loan was in the building until closing out. Dr. Blake Dirks presently owns the building, where he now has his optometry offices. We will continue our walk in the next article.

Do You Remember Main Street From The Past?

Nassau Street and Minnesota Avenue

Let's continue our walk that we started last week.

Across Nassau Street to the south is Geldner's Bridal Shop. The brick building was originally called Bennett's Drug Store. Later, Joe Poetz purchased the business and after several years in that location moved into the defunct Citizens State Bank building in the middle of the 300 block.

Louis Blender and son Norman were the next to have a business in the Bennett building, locating their haberdashery there. After several years in the haberdashery the Blenders decided that there was more money in the liquor business. They obtained an on-sale liquor license and after several years sold to Seif Meyers who, after several years, sold to Spencer Arndt.

Later, Mark & Jerry's Clothing occupied the building. Mark Schaus and Jerry Germscheid sold to Bruce Santleman, who operated the Governor's Five Clothing Store. When Bruce closed out, a video store occupied the building before Geldner's Bridal Shop.

Next door south is what was called the Walter building. In 1900, my uncle, Chas. Wettergren, operated a cafe in the building. Later an uncle, Carl Gustafson, during prohibition, ran a tavern in the building. I understand during prohibition he operated out of the back door quite extensively.

I remember during the Depression when Selmer Johnson, a former partner of Joe Seitzer, moved the hardware business into the Walter building. When Johnson closed out, Mark Hinnenthal, Ed Stindt, and their wives operated a hardware store on the premises. With the increase of business, Mark and Ed moved their business into the I.O.O.F. lodge building.

Keep in mind many of the businessmen played musical chairs by moving to various locations.
Don Burch moved his shoe business into the vacant area and remained for over 30 years before selling to employee Ed Odegard, who closed out and moved to Florida.

The building today is occupied by Hobarts Gallery.

South of Hobarts is what was called the Dick building. Phil Dick, Sr. and sons Albert and Phil, Jr. operated a clothing business for three generations. On the lot where Dicks built was St. Peter's first store (J. R. Gardner had a grocery store and residence in the Gardner building.)

The Dicks, at a later date, rented the south portion of the double building to A & P Food Stores. When Albert's son, Russ (third generation) went into the service, Dicks sold the building to Dick and Ione Manuel for a Ben Franklin Store. Dick and Ione sold to son Mike and wife Sue, who later sold to Mike's brother-in-law, Richard and his sister, Sue Pope.

They, in turn, sold to John and Betsy Meistrell, who recently sold the building to Sandy Brovold for her Interior ression business.

For many years, while the Dicks owned the building, the upstairs was rented for government offices.

Next door going south was the Schleuder building, where Max and wife Tillie Schleuder operated a jewelry store. Upon death of the Schleuders, Leon and Elsie Bunde took over the business. When the Bundes moved into the middle of the onic building, John's (Lindquist) Bakery became the next business.

Ken Odell and Barry Bowles opened a Hallmark Store in the Schleuder location. Ken and Barry sold to Frani Anderson.

The next renter in the location was Smithers Computers. After Frani closed, John and Karen Smithers restored the leuder building built in 1885. Today, a business known as Chameleon Connection is in the building.

The Citizens State Bank was the next building south. When the bank went under in 1924, J. A. Poetz moved into the ding. Upon the passing of Joe Poetz, Rudy Faust, a long-time employee, became the owner of the business. Bob Faust over the business upon the passing of Rudy. Today, Anders and Janet Bjorling operate their Swedish Kontur Import iness from the building they now own. Dr. William Trench occupied the upstairs of the building, where he had his dental ces. He was the "Dean of the St. Peter Dentists" in 1930, according to the Herald Diamond Jubilee.

The next building is the Daniel's building, now the Masonic building. Dr. A. W. Daniels and son Dr. J. W., famous neer doctors, built the three-store building in 1899. They occupied the offices above Nutters and leased the rest of the ding to the Masons.

In 1934, Dr. J.W. Daniels sold the building to the Masonic Lodge. J. Ben Nelson leased the portion where the Tulip Tree or a shoe store. Upon the death of J. Ben, his employees, Peter Adolphson, his son Albin, and his brother Andrew took r the business until retirement.

Carlson Dress Shop was the next business and, upon the owners' retirement, was sold to Bonnie Dowling. When nie retired, the business was sold to Claire Ann Warrant. When Claire Ann retired, several other businesses were in that tion until the Tulip Tree owners took over the premises.

Pete Schuveiller from Nicollet leased the middle and south stores for a grocery and dry goods store, the same stores that tt Dobie operates as Nutter's. After the Schuveillers left, the middle store was occupied by Red Owl, later Arthur Dress p, which was sold to Ann Cole.

Later, Leon and Elsie Bunde operated a dress shop for 28 years from that location before closing out a few years ago.

After Bundes closed out, Steve Drummer operated his Wood Etc. business for three years before purchasing the Burg ding in the 200 block. A few years ago Scott Dobie, owner of Nutter's, opened the archway that Schuviellers used for r double store.

The Danby building was next to the south. Jim Nutter opened a clothing store in the building before moving into the onic building.

Halvorsons, later Bud and Phyllis Braun, operated a department store in the building. When Bud and Phyllis retired, the ding was sold to Al Battig, who still owns the building and leases to St. Peter Travel, Mark Bollum American Express ncial Services, and River Valley Insurance.

The Schaefer brothers, Pete and John, operated a drug store. Upon the death of the brothers, the business was taken r by Bob Swedberg, who remodeled and added on to the present building.

Bob rented to Dr. A. Henry Thompson for his medical practice on the second floor. He built a new building on the ner of Third and Park Row for his new Snyder Drugs.

When M & M Children's dress store moved out, the space was rented to Jackie Wettergren and Joan Moses, who moved r Shari's Closet business into the empty store. The building, now owned by Dr. Blake, is available for rent.

The corner building, known as the Joseph Mason building, was built in 1871. Joseph Mason operated a hardware store until selling to his sons, Charles and George.

According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee edition, the Savage Co., dealing in general merchandise, was the next occupant. Bill Krisatis was the manager.

W. A. Ritt moved his bicycle and gun shop into the quarters when Savage pulled out.

Bill went into the electrical and appliance business and did the electrical work on Minnesota Ave. in 1929, when Hallett's Construction paved the Main Street. The project was called "the great white way."

Bill took in long-time employees, Elmer Hein and Elmer Bode, as junior partners. The business was sold to Jim Miller, who operated until selling to Jim Elbers.

The next business was Ron and Kayla Wiebold's Decorating Center. When Ron went to work for Benco and Kayla for the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, the store was closed.

Today, attorneys Mike Riley and Paul Tanis are the owners. Mike and Paul restored the building to it natural beauty. Today, the upstairs is leased to the CADD organization. The main floor is available for leasing.

West Of Main Street Has Plenty Of History

Minnesota Avenue and Grace Street

Continuing our walk down the west side of Main Street . . . Across Grace Street (Fort Road) was Skelly Station, started by George Martens in the early 1930's. George had previously started the Standard Station on Broadway and Minnesota Ave. prior to the 40 years that Jules Annexstad was the lessee. Alan Mans was the next operator of Skelly's, before selling the business to the late Don Menk. Don sold to Gene Weber.

I believe Butch Frey was the last operator of the service station before the building was sold to the Swansons of Mankato, who remodeled the building for their Ginny May Donuts shop. The building was demolished along with several others for a city parking lot.

The building south was Perfection Cleaners, owned and operated by former Mayor Otto T. Miller. I remember when Dr. Karl Burch had his osteopathic practice on the second floor, along with his family residence. Dr. Burch moved out in 1938, when he built a new building on the corner of Grace and Third Street for his practice. The Burch building is now owned by Byron Kleist, where he has his insurance business and rentals.

Harry and Florence Fredricksen were the next owners of the dry cleaning business, followed by George Lenertz and Wilbur Lenke. When Wilbur passed away, the building remained empty until demolished for parking.

Way back, the next building was occupied by Ribble for his photography studio. Later, Ribble turned the business over to his son-in-law, Oscar Maves. The building was sold to the Paul Vetters, who owned the property for many years.

The next occupants were Darrell and Ione Foss for their studio. They later moved to the W.E. Nutter building across the alley. After Foss, the next renter was Milt Wolter, who operated St. Peter Travel in the building until moving to its present quarters. Attorneys MacKenzie and Gustafson were the next owners of the building and rented to the federal government for offices before demolition.

The Nutter Building

The old W. E. Nutter building was one of the oldest buildings in St. Peter, owned and operated by one of the oldest families. When W. E. Nutter passed away, the hardware business was taken over by sons, George and Emmett, who stayed until retirement.

In the Nutter Building were the Maid-Rite Cafe, Earl Erickson's Music Store, and finally Foss Studio, until the building s unexpectedly demolished. The VFW Post 1220 leased the second floor of the building at one time. Norman Lorhammer r operated his photo studio on the second floor of the Nutter building, before moving his operation to the Poetz house, ich he purchased.

e State Theater

The next place south was the State Theater, in 1937 owned and operated by Ben Berger. Berger also bought the Ludcke eater, which was a cornerstone of the community. I remember meeting with Ben, when I was with the Chamber, about ing the theater.

The Baptists, who bought it, couldn't get the zoning change for a church so they sold the property to Larry and Gloria for storing furniture for their store.

Bill Krisatis moved his popcorn stand from the Ludcke Theater location to the south of the theater, where Miles Lunak l his shoe repair and living quarters. Before Krisatis moved up, there was a Bulldog hamburger shop operated by Ollie l Marie Engesser. The building was in the shape of a bulldog and was moved to the intersection where highway 169 ides at the south end. Ole Warning operated a filling station out of the building until new Highway 169 was built.

Miles Lunak, having come to St. Peter in 1931, is the city's oldest businessperson. I remember when the Chamber nored Miles for his half-century in the shoe repair business. Miles and his wife Dorothy have a beautiful apartment above shop, which was built in 1949. Miles is happy that the proposed Mall never came into being.

nnesota Avenue and Mulberry Street

Klein Furniture and Funeral Home was the next building south, located on the corner of Minnesota Ave and Mulberry. in's, one of the St. Peter's oldest businesses, was started in 1854. When Karl Klein moved the funeral home to north shington in 1969, the furniture business was sold to Burt Dahlin and Raymond "Buzz" Hoffmann. A few years later Burt chased a funeral business in Winthrop, the furniture business was sold to Ken Goeswich of Mankato.

A fire gutted the building in 1965. Malcolm MacKenzie and Bill Gustafson decided to move out of their building on ce Street and purchase and remodel the Klein building for their law offices. Today, the MacKenzie and Gustafson, Ltd. e their law offices in the building along with attorneys, Riley, Lucas, Tanis, Westphal, and CPA Jim Stenson. The U.D.A. ces are located in the rear of the building with C.D.A. Nicollet County Violence Intervention Project offices and the eland Realty being in the basement.

Visit With Some Names From The Past

nnesota Avenue and Mulberry Street

Let's continue our walk down the west side of Main Street (Highway 169) by crossing Mulberry Street to where the stal Station was, until purchased by Nielsen's Chev-Olds for parking.

On the corner, years back, was the Julius Ritt building, where he and his son, Bill had their bicycle-motorcycle business, l later electrical business, before moving to the Joseph Mason building.

Burt Johnson's folks purchased the building from the Ritts and moved their Johnson Cash Grocery business to that ation. Burt's folks' grocery business was first located in the building where Hawkins Jewelry is now.

Johnsons, after two years at that location, were followed by John Nelson, who had a shoe store there before selling to n Burch. Johnsons sold the grocery business to Ervin and Esther Foss, who sold to Lee Starken. The Foss Red & White cery moved to the 200 block east location. Coastal was a convenience store before demolition by Nielsens.

The next place south was a motor repair owned by Jack Baker. Jack married Bill Ritt's sister, Flora, who was my teacher Traverse District No. 3 for many years. After Jack, came Ernest Gunderson, followed by the late Charlie Bartel, who had tel's Bonded Station. "Chuckie" Frey had a tire shop in that location before the late Warren Wills operated a floor ering and carpeting business before the building was demolished.

The next place south was O & R Photography Studio, a new building built by Archie Ollerman and Morrie Rheaume, before selling the building to Harold and Laurie Martin for their Realty business. Later, Dean Steiner had his real estate business in the front and Diane her beauty shop in the back.

The Feldmann Tin Shop was the next place. Cargill moved into the building, according to Burt Johnson. Cargill moved when the company purchased the Nicollet County Seed Co. and moved into what was called the Donlinger building on the corner of Third Street and Broadway Avenue, where the main offices are for the Leo A. Hoffmann Center.

Leonard Matson had a restaurant in the location, followed by Thel's Cafe. Harvey Amlund operated a cafe for a number of years before Florence Keene purchased the building and operated a cafe. The building has been demolished for Nielsen parking.

The Fay, later the Witte, house was also purchased and torn down for Nielsen's parking lot.

The house on the corner, where Meyer Studio and Liquor Stock House is, was known as the Zimmerman House. Later Willis Hoyt owned the property for his funeral home. Harold Beyer took over from Hoyt and sold the business. Nate Stillwell from New Ulm now owns the building housing the studio and liquor store.

Minnesota Avenue and Myrtle Street

Across Myrtle Street, in the southeast of Erickson's parking lot, was a little old house on a lot owned by the Standard Oi Co. The Assemblies of God had their house of worship in that location until moving to the Sunrise location. Gene and Doris Evenson opened a Dairy Delite there until the land was purchased by Federal Savings and Loan.

The Federal Savings & Loan had just acquired the St. Peter Savings & Loan business that was located in the old Nicollet County Bank building. Twin Cities Savings & Loan purchased the building and business from Federal Savings and Loan. To Stienessen was the manager and also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Savings and Loan sold the property to Erickson's More 4. Being a friend of the Erickson family, I was able to obtain the building for the Chamber at a cost of $1 and moved the building to Levee Park.

Erickson's More 4 originally acquired the old St. Peter Sidewalk & Tile Co. that was owned and operated by brothers Frank and Gus Carlson. Ed Drenttel and Alvin Nelson, longtime employees, took over the business when the Carlsons retired.

Later, when Clifford "Tishy" Drenttel returned from the service, he took over Nelson's interest. The Drenttel's sold to the late Keith Connor, who sold to Erickson and moved the tile factory out on Highway 22, to make room for More 4.

To the east of More 4, is Erickson's Freedom Valu Centers, which is located where several houses stood.

Minnesota Avenue and Walnut Street

Moving across Walnut Street, we see the Medical Arts building that houses dentists Mary Snyder, John Gustafson, Bruce Hultgren, Bill Dobbs and chiropractor Craig Hartman. The building replaced an old Kasota stone Harkins house that had several apartments.

Dentists Dick Larson, Joe Dobie, Bill Dobbs and A. Henry Thompson replaced the Harkin's house with a new modern Medical Arts building for their offices. Drs. Larson, Dobbs, Dobie and Thompson gave the building to Gustavus Adolphus College, which now owns the property.

The next building was the old Donahower house that later became the Myrtle Miller Rest Home. Dr. Bill Erickson, medical director at the Regional Treatment Center, presently owns the property.

Minnesota Avenue and Locust Street

Across Locust Street is what we called the Poetz house. Norman and Shirley Lorhammer purchased the Poetz house for their new studio and living quarters. When the Lorhammers moved to a warmer climate, the house was purchased by Wendy and Coco Foss, where Coco operated her Real Estate business and the family lived.

On the corner before College Avenue and the Minnesota Square Park is a big white duplex. This was the home of Henry Swift, one of St. Peter's five governors who served the state of Minnesota. The house was also called the Gideon Ives ase, as Swift's daughter married Ives. Ives was Lt. Governor of Minnesota and at one time, was mayor of St. Peter.

nesota and College Avenues

Crossing College Avenue (Cedar until the mid-1930's) is Minnesota Square where the Capitol was to be in this 10 1/2 e park.

nnesota Avenue and Elm Street

The next street to cross is Elm. On the south corner of Elm is the Quick Mart. The property was owned by Edward A. l Norma Johnson (later Norma MacKenzie).

Eddie Johnson received several awards for his Herald Diamond Jubilee history of St. Peter. He died suddenly in the 0s. He built a reputation as an editor and part owner of the paper that was once owned by Henry Essler and John A. nson until Johnson's governorship. Norma MacKenzie sold the Johnson lot to Texaco.

George Trimbo and, later Bob Von Essen were the operators before Bob moved to his new quarters in the north end of Peter. Quick Mart Convenience Store and Bus Depot now occupy the building.

nnesota Avenue and Pine Street

Across Pine Street is the Engesser bed and Breakfast, once the residence of the brewery family.

On the corner of the block is Budget Mart. Originally, this was an Engesser house, also. The house became Cora-Lee spital owned and operated by Cora and Lee Hughes.

nnesota and Jefferson Avenues

As we journey across Jefferson Avenue, we find the Dunkin' Donut Shop. In the 1930s, Skoning Nelson built a log cabin re where he sold beer, groceries, gas and sundry items.

I remember during World War II, Joe and Maxine Dvorak operated Joe's Place out of that location. Mike Schmidt rchased the business and called the place Mike's Wayside Inn. Mike later sold to Red Volk and Don Meyer, who operated Southside Grocery in the building.

Standard Oil built a new station on the corner, which Ron Reese operated before he leased the Standard station wntown (Amoco). Nielsen's Chev-Olds operated their used car lot out of the building and grounds for a few years, before nkin' Donuts took over the remodeled building.

basha and Jackson Streets

We now cross Wabasha to Jackson, where John Davies operated Sunnyside Grocery. It was a stopping point for people before they turned left on old Highway 5 to Kasota and Mankato. According to Cliff Mollert, who lived next door to nyside Grocery, the business was closed when Highway 169 was built in 1929.

Jake and Lorraine Campbell built an A & W Root Beer building and operated the business for nearly 20 years before ling to Joe and Sherry Peterson. Chze Lo, who still owns the building, operated a Vietnamese restaurant in the building er the Petersons. Today, Yu's Chinese Restaurant occupies the building.

Adjacent to the south is the Swine Vet Center. The building was the former home of the Federal Land Bank and oduction Credit Services.

To the south was George Trimbo's Car Wash, later known as Weber's. The building has since been demolished.

Kentucky Fried Chicken, operated by Greg Haggenmiller, is the next business south, the former Jug business owned by late Clark Foss, later Dick and Betty Ross and others on the corner.

The Viking Jr. Motel was started by Ralph Johnson, followed by Carl and Belvinia Benthin. Pat and Audrey Schmitz ned and operated the motel before selling to present owners, Roger and Mary Larson.

Bowlero Bowling is now owned and operated by Dennis and Dee Pomije and Augie Hedtke. The business was first owned by Bob Harman and was called Sioux Trail Lanes. Bob sold to Mike Erickson and Lloyd Doos, who in turn sold to Bob's son, Mike Erickson. Bob sold to the Pomijes and Hedtke, who changed the name.

While on the south end, let's continue by taking in Jim Andresen's Plumbing and Heating and his Southside Laundry on Freeman Drive.

Also, let's take a detour and go west on Pine and Fifth Streets, where Charles Brandt had a neighborhood store that he took over from his wife's mother, Mrs. Freeman.

Many remember Frank Dutton's Store and rentals across the street east, later Schwingler's, followed by Emil Haugen and finally Ruck's Store.

Today's Walk Starts On The East Side Of Main Street

Let's continue our walk down memory lane with Bob Theiman accompanying us. Bob, as you remember, and his brothers delivered freight for their father, Ben, who had Theiman's Dray.

Heading North on Minnesota Avenue

We will start on the east side of Main Street (Highway 169) and head north. Sunnyside Florist, owned by Al and Ann Cole, stood on the east side on the way to the State Hospital until moved to Union Street to make room for new Highway 169.

Ole Warning's Bulldog Gas Station stood where highway 169 divides. Carl and Myrtle Lund built the Southside Motel in 1949. Lyle Johnson and Elsie and Bob Bull were the next owners. Now Jim and Donna Pursifull are the owners.

Autotronics is the next building north. Carl and Myrtle Lund built the Southside Shell Gas Station with a cafe in the south portion in 1947. Carl operated the station with the help of son-in-law Vic Pedersen for several years before selling to Cliff Mollert. Ron Reese, Rick Gibbs and Casey Warren were previous owners before Autotronics.

The cafe had several owners, including the Jewisons, Connie and Irene Bell, and Bill and Alice Kasten before they moved to the building next door north, which was called Pine Inn for several years.

Ole Warning, Junior Kramer, Freddie Thom and others operated a tavern in that location. Bill and Alice Kasten operated Alice and Bill's Cafe out of that building for several years before retiring a few years ago. Today MJJ Liquors off-sale, owned by Jeff and Gregg Knutson, is in the building.

Minnesota and Jefferson Avenues

Across Jefferson is Hardee's. The business that was first in the building was known as Sandy's, which was bought out by Hardee's.

Minnesota Avenue and Pine Street

Across Pine Street is the Kind Veterinary Clinic. The building was once L. H. Christensen's Standard station. Francis "Mustie" Veith, the son-in-law of the Christensens, operated the business until selling it to Panquin. Wally Covell, and later John Allen, operated the business for several years before Dr. Gene Kind purchased the building for his clinic.

As we travel north, we pass the Frank Carlson house, which was the office and residence for Dr. George Haedt's chiropractic profession.

We also pass the former home of the Con Vogt family. Dr. Jim Hanson had his veterinary offices and residence there before being employed by the State of Minnesota.

Minnesota Avenue and Walnut Street

Across Walnut we run into Ruttle's Bar and Grill. Years back, the Apco station and others were there until the Prairie House, Pioneer restaurant located there before Ruttle's.

Next we pass the Nicollet County Law Enforcement Center and the Court House.

innesota Avenue and Mulberry Street

Crossing Mulberry we come upon Bungum's Realty. This building was the Carnegie Public Library before the library was oved to its present location. Claus Mitterhauser operated a restaurant in the building before Bungum's Realty.

Now we come to the old armory that was taken over by the Nicollet County Post 1220 VFW when the new armory was ilt in the north end of St. Peter. NordicTrack now operates in the building, because the VFW moved back to its former cation.

The one-story building to the north, across the alley, is where P. J. Swenson and later his son-in-law, Ray Nelson, had a y cleaning establishment. Today, Earl "Red" Donald and Cecil Wolfe occupy the building and have their residence in the ur. Many remember Red and Cecil Wolfe operating the Grandpa Popcorn Wagon on the Skelly and later Ginny May lot ross the street for 17 years.

Now we come to Vincent Wang's Restaurant. The building was dubbed as the "High Steps" for years when Harvey ggel, Curtis Leverson, Deac Staples, Al Braun, Charlie Keltgen and others operated a tavern out of the building. Al and ronica Battig had a cafe there for a number of years before Vincent.

Burns Cigar Factory was the next building north. Pat Burns also had his justice of the peace office in the same building. rry's Cafe, Thompson, and others were in the old building before it was demolished to make room for Tri-County Soft ater that was owned by Ed Ranzau and, later Chuck Zeiman. The new building now houses the Farm Bureau offices.

e Odd Fellows Building

Geldner's Tailor Shop, with barber Pete Balle on the south side, was the next building. The building was razed to make om for Dan and Dorothy Schlenker's addition to the Odd Fellows building, which they had purchased. Years ago, in the ld Fellows building, was the Gamble Store, followed by Minnesota Natural Gas Co., that began in St. Peter in 1934.

When the Gas Co. moved to new quarters in the Lenander building, about 1939, Ben Fallenstein and Ernie Marschol had hat was known as Ben and Ernie's Bar and Dick Maltby had his plumbing and heating business in the south part of the ilding.

When Ben and Ernie built the Flame Bar, the Red Owl Food Stores moved into the quarters. When Red Owl moved to e south portion of Floyd Johnson's Factory building, Mark Hinnenthal and Ed Stindt moved their hardware business to the ld Fellows building. Bob Reid sold to Dan and Dorothy Schlenker, who presently own the building and operate Dan's rdware Hank.

mbassy Bar Is One Of The Oldest Buildings In St. Peter

innesota Avenue and Grace Street

Let's continue our walk down the east side of Main Street heading north. The Embassy Bar, located on the north side of ace and Minnesota Ave. is one of the oldest buildings in St. Peter.

The stone structure building was built by William Schimmel for a grain warehouse and elevator in the late 1850s. A. J. st had a jewelry store in the building and at one time Charlie Rost had a leather goods and harness shop.

I remember when Joe Lyman and "Monk" Longstein had the L & L Cafe, followed by Bob Schuveiller's restaurant and blin's Shamrock Cafe before Deac and son, Ray Staples, opened Deac's Bar. Vern and Harriet Derner and partner, Valeria oomquist, were the next owners, Dick Myhra and Keith Keogh purchased the business and later sold to "Rusty" Redning.

eterson Recreation and the Polar Maid Cafe

Today, Keith and son-in-law Brad Reese are operating the business. Attorney Mac McConville owned the building for ars and had his attorney office upstairs.

Next door is Peterson's Recreation and Bowling. The business was started by O. G. Peterson who, upon retirement, sold to sons Ray and Vern. When Ray retired and Vern passed away, Ceil, Vern's wife, took over the operation. Ceil's son, Joe Peterson, operated the business until Ceil's son-in-law, LeRoy Blaschko, became the owner. Today, Ceil's grandson, Chris is operating the business.

The next building was the Polar Maid Cafe. Louise Piche Keppers tore down the old building that served as barber shop, hatchery and cafe. The new Polar Maid had living quarters on the second floor in the rear portion of the building. Former mayor, Elmer Kleifgen, and wife Lolly operated the Polar Maid before selling to Karl and Julia Johnson. The Kleifgens previously operated Otte's Cafe.

Louise Keppers sold the building to Nicollet County VFW Post 1220. When the VFW purchased the old armory, Jack Albrecht purchased the building and called his bar Jack's Place. NordicTrack purchased the armory building from the VFW; so the VFW purchased Jack's Place. Today the building is for sale or rent. How about that for musical chairs?

Minnesota Valley Natural Gas Building

In 1940, Dr. Mel Lenander purchased what was A. J. Pott's plumbing and later the Ed Theis plumbing and heating building. His building housed the Lenander and Sjostrom medical offices and the Minnesota Valley Natural Gas Co. quarters.

Today, Domino's Pizza and Mr. Mike's Video occupy the ground floor with Principal Financial Group, Warren "Buster" West, agent, on the second floor. Dave Lindenberg, former executive of the Gas Co., is one of the current owners of the building.

The St. Peter Herald Building and the Warnings' Sheet Metal Shop

Across the alley is the St. Peter Herald, made famous by part-owner and editor John A. Johnson, who became St. Peter's fifth governor to serve the state of Minnesota. Johnson was the first Minnesota-born governor and the first to occupy the present state Capitol building. Johnson died Sept. 20, 1909. His most famous quotation was "I never forgot a friend nor did I remember an enemy." He was considered a strong candidate for the presidency on the Democratic ticket for the 1912 election. For you history buffs, Johnson was born in Traverse in a log cabin on the back forty now owned by Ruth Enz. According to Court House records, the land is adjacent to the Willard and Edna Pehrson farm on what was called the Swede Crossroad.

Getting back to the Herald, it was first owned by Henry Essler and John Blackiston in 1884. It was started in a building they bought from Charles L. Wettergren, who operated a meat market in the building until moving to Traverse. Major Oliver Quane purchased the Johnson interest when he became governor. Later, Essler, Edward A. Johnson, and Al and Ralph Weisgerber were partners.

In 1935, Eddie Johnson unexpectedly died. With his passing, the potential for St. Peter's sixth governor hopes went down the tube, as he was being groomed for the governorship. Editors Bill Elston and Harry Davey followed Eddie, only to advance to larger papers. Editor and part owner Sander Olson, and Jim and Dick Weisgerber became owners and led the Herald to it highest subscription.

Warnings' Sheet Metal Shop

Warnings' Sheet Metal and Heating building is next. Charlie Warning and sons, Roy and Earl, operated the business until Roy and Kathryn's sons, Steve and Ken, took over the business. They sold to Ahrens from New Ulm who operates out of the Warning building.

The Wettergren Building

Next is the Wettergren building built in 1949. Previously, Eddie Engesser had a Tire Shop and Billboard on the property. Soren and Anna Smidt once owned the property that was sold to the Wettergrens.

The Engesser building was demolished when the Wettergrens built a new commercial building for National Tea (now No Frills) with the upstairs being occupied by dentists Larson, Larson and Dobie. Dr. Joe Sheehan had his optometry office. Dr. Elmer Minar his chiropractic office and Radio Station KTOE were on one side, and the Soil Conservation offices were on the other.

When the Minnesota Valley Gas Co. had their headquarters in St. Peter, an overhead ramp connected the offices above Herald, Warnings and Wettergren buildings with the Gas Co. When National Tea moved to its Grace and Third Street tion, the building was occupied by C & S Supply.

Bill Pell purchased the Wettergren building and leased to Larry and Gloria Eck for their furniture Store. Later the Ecks chased the building before moving to California. Today, Terry Hoehn, Sam Johnson and Ron Johnson own the building lease to Jan Glackler's Nu Looks Toning and Tanning, Jim Thompson's Share Driving School, Tom Hergert's Custom Services, and Farmers Insurance agent, Walt Anderson.

Way Cleaners

NuWay Cleaners was the next building. Leo Runkle purchased the Gruber Land Office building for a dry cleaning iness in 1940. When Leo and wife Evie retired and sold the business to Chris Hanson, they had been in business 53 rs. A fire gutted the NuWay building two years ago, putting Chris Hanson out of business. The building is scheduled for nolition.

nesota Avenue and Nassau Street

On the corner of Minnesota and Nassau is the Past Tense Restaurant. The building was built by Charles Fay. Charlie t had a leather store, Philip Dick, Sr. a men's clothing store, Charlie Anderson a saloon in 1888, and Olson and "Ole" zer a hardware store in the building.

In 1930, Sam Haugdahl, young Sam's grandfather, purchased the building and leased the premises to Casebere & tberg for a cafe. A & P (Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.), the last A & P Store west of the Mississippi River, leased the building n Howard Ricker as manager. When Howard retired, the store was closed.

Ginny and "Tuff" Miller operated the Pizza Villa out of the building until they rented the quarters to Pat Nielsen, who nged the name to Past Tense Restaurant. Years back, the telephone exchange was on the second floor. Apartments are re now.

st National Bank Building Constructed In 1914

nnesota Avenue and Nassau Street

Let's continue our walk "Down Memory Lane" with Cliff Hermel accompanying us. Crossing Nassau Street on the east of Main Street (Highway 169) heading north, we come upon Godfather's Pizza.

First National Bank Building

The building was built in 1914 to house the First National Bank. Dr. J.J. Edwards, chiropractor, had his office in the rear ne building on the Nassau side. Later J. Paul and Catherine Bell had Credit Bureau offices and Civic & Commerce amber) were in that location.

On the second floor of the bank were the offices of Dr. Edward Larson, D. D. and attorney Henry Benson, Sr. When nry became the Attorney General of Minnesota, Thorild Peterson became Henry's partner. When Henry returned, Thorild ed the staff at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Returning from World War II, Henry Benson, Jr. joined his father in the law practice. Attorney Bob Schmitz took over nry's practice when Henry became the Judge of Probate. Attorney Malcolm MacKenzie and Emil Trnka, tax consultant, at time were also on the second floor along with the others.
nnon's Cafe and then The Bank on the Avenue Restaurant were on the main floor before Godfather's.

Gault Building

Next door was attorney Normal Cox Gault's (grandson of E. St. Julien Cox) building. Norman rented the building to rles Brinker, Sr. for the St. Peter Hatchery business.

Later, Harold Johnson occupied the north half with his jewelry store. Paul Hartman occupied the south half with his Harness & Shoe Repair Shop before Norman Gault moved in with his law practice. Norman was later joined by attorney Bill Gustafson.

The last business in the building before it was leveled was the late Helen Rients, who operated Granni's Country Crafts & Gifts.

The adjacent building, heading north, was what we called Gracie Bowden's Millinery Shop. Gracie took over the business from her mother, at that time making the ownership one of the oldest in St. Peter.

Now Mayor Ellery Peterson, CPA and State Farm Insurance agent Rolfe Hanson have purchased the building and completely remodeled the structure. When Ellery purchased the old Nicollet County Bank and Rolfe retired, the building was sold to the late Lee and Barb Liljander, who took over Rolfe's business.

Mark Zallek and Rich Olson rented the building from Barb until they both moved to different locations. Today, Larry Hahn and Joan Wendell conduct their accounting firms in the building.

Johnson's Grocery/Foss Building

The three-story building next door, with apartments on the second and third floors, was known as C.A. Johnson's Grocery and Dry Goods store. Today you can still see the Occidental Flour sign on the south wall. Hilding "Skoning" Nelson became owner of the building on the passing of his mother, Mathilda.

Leon and Elsie Bunde operated a Red & White store there until purchasing the Schleuder Gift Shop in the 300 block west. The Bundes sold to Ervin, Esther, and Gordon Foss, who moved from what was Clarence Johnson's Cash Grocery location.

When Ervin bought the south portion and Gordy the north half of the building that was once the Hoyt Furniture and Funeral Home, the business was moved to 213 South Minnesota. The Nelson building was next rented to the Overn Brothers, Carl and Nels, for their electrical business. Tate's Rentals, Ada's Beauty Shop and Keith Cuttery businesses followed. The building is now empty.

The next building north was occupied by Al and Helen Jorgenson, who had a dime store. The Grindens purchased Jorgensons' business, with Laurence Carlson as manager. The St. Peter Family Dental Centers, Doctors Mark Conover and Greg Engels, were the last lessees before moving to their new clinic on Sunrise Drive.

As I said before, Foss purchased the building where Hoyt was. The building was purchased from Martha Hanson who, with husband Joel, operated the furniture and funeral home before Hoyt. When Gordy took sole possession of the Foss Red & White, he moved into Erv and Esther's building at 211 N. Minnesota. Gordy was in the grocery business in St. Peter for 32 years before retiring. Later, Gordy sold his folks' building to Cliff and Katie Hermel, where they now own and operate their Music Store & Radio Shack business.

Gordy leased his building to several people including Carlson Dress Shop (Hugo and Ledia), Rita Hix Shoe Store, Weber's Linoleum store and others. He sold his building to Bob Sheehy for his Don's Appliance & TV business.

The Domeier Building

Bob also has the Domeier building north, thus giving him a double building. The Domeier building was once occupied by Ken Gerard for a variety store. Dick Shepherd took over from Ken and opened a men's clothing store, followed by Mark Schaus and Jerry Germscheid, who had Mark & Jerry's Men's Store before moving into the 300 block west.

Seibert Building

Gus Ward had a meat market in the next building. E. C. "Tiny" Mouritsen operated the Sanitary meat Market before Everett Seibert's market. Everett was a butcher for 51 years in St. Peter before retiring. The last meat market in the building was that of Dave and Virginia Swedberg.

rway / Anderson Building

Next door was O.B. Johnson's Fairway Store, followed by Maurice Dale, Timmon Bros., Ray Olson Sr. and lastly, Les
s.

Ray Olson moved to the north end where he built a new store, which he operated for several years. The double store
called the A. M. Anderson's Ladies' Clothing Store for a number of years. When the Andersons retired, former mayor, Art
t, opened Arthur's Ladies Store. Art remained at that location until moving into the Masonic building in the 300 west
k.

Bill Francis, who was in the Engesser building across the street, now where Bob Witty is, moved into Art's location. Bill
ged the name of his business from Western Auto to Bill's Hardware. Don Neiman, an employee of Bill's, purchased the
ness and operated it until selling to son Dave. Today, Dave owns and operates the double store plus the Fairway and
ert buildings. Dave's business is now called Arrow Ace Hardware.

Many, I am sure, remember when Russ Zabel operated a barber shop in the basement of the Anderson building, and
George and Norma MacKenzie opened their insurance and real estate business in that location when Russ retired.

lay's Walk Takes Us North On Main Street

Let us continue our journey Down Memory Lane with Bob Thieman.

Heading north on Main Street (Hwy 169) we cross Park Row where we run into Bob Witty's double building that houses
lumbing and heating business and the north Midwest Cablevision.

In the rear of the building, where Bob has a Laundromat, A.J. Keppers had his Monument Works.
building was built by John Engesser for his clothing store in 1888.

remember when Red Owl moved into the south portion in 1928, when Leon Bunde was the manager. Later, Bill
cis operated a Western Auto Store, where Bob is, before moving across the street into the 200 block, where he took
. Anderson's store for Bill's Ace Hardware.

Bob and Joan purchased the building from Roger an Marilyn Theis, who also operated a plumbing business from the
nises.

Overn Bros., Carl and Nels, had their electric shop in the north portion of the double building until moving into the 200
k, where they located in the Skoning Nelson three-story building.

John Malmborg and Paul Anderson from Gustavus Adolphus College opened a Pizza Villa operation in the north portion
John moved into the Haugdahl building where "Past Tense" is located.

Anders and Janet Bjorling located their Swedish Kontur store in the north portion until buying the building where Bob
Lila Faust had their Drug Store, Midwest has been in the north half since that time.

In the basement of the south portion was a barber shop. Lloyd Gould and Ralph Schneider, Gould and Art Overson, and
Gould and Dick Cassett, leased the quarters for their business.

Next, in a comparatively new one-story building was A.W. "Ackie" Hallander's Insurance Agency. The office also housed
t. Peter Savings & Loan with A.W. Meyer, Secretary.

Mary Ann Cope operated Cope's Travel Agency for a number of years in the building.

Today, dentists Germundson, Kanyusik, Wiemers, orthodontists, are in the building.

North is the Haugdahl Realty offices. The building was built by George and Norma Mackenzie and leased to Mrs. Otto Peterson for the Smart Ladies Dress Shop.

Later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Stabilization Conservation rented the building with Jim McClellan as manager.

When the ASC office moved to Bob Johnson's building on Sunrise, Sam Haugdahl moved in.
Years back, H. McMillan operated Mac's Billiard Parlor in the next building.

Later, Art Redding had Art's Cut Rate Grocery there. After a short time in business, Art closed and Marge Krig opened Grandma's Cafe'. Marietta Kendall operated the Cafe' for a time before the Minnesota School Boards Assn. leased the building.

Later, the MSBA moved to the Bolton & Menk building on Third Street. The building today is the quarters of Dr. Charles Uhler's Chiropractic Center.

The building north is the Fashion Corner Beauty Salon. Formerly the building was the Earl Lomis car clinic.

Later, Lyle Sawyer had a Farm Store in the building. The last business before the Fashion Corner was Freedolph and Myrtle Anderson's Feed and Seed store. In the back of the Anderson store and Grandma's Cafe' was Ben Thieman's Dray dock and building.

Ben, a long-time employee took over the dray business when Charlie Dempsey became Postmaster. Ben sold the business to employee Jerry Burg when he retired.

Across the alley was Dr. Roy Dean's building, which was his veterinarian office for over 50 years. When Dr. Dean retired from his practice, the building was leased to Montgomery Ward for a catalog store operated by Tom and Ruth Janni.

Former Mayor, Henry E. Wiest, had his Railway Express and Produce business in the next building. Upon Henry's retirement, long-time employee Wilmar Fischer took over the business.

The American Legion William R. Witty Post #37 was the next business before selling the building to Cliff and Katie Hermel. The Hermels sold the building to Ellis and Helen Thompson who used the building for a dining room for their restaurant which they ran next door.

Otte's Cafe' was north. Gordy and Elfredia Olson operated the cafe' before former Mayor Elmer and wife Mozelle (Lolly) Kleifgen, who operated the cafe' before moving to the Polar Maid building. Esther Krenkendahl operated the cafe' and then sold to Irene and Connie Bell. Bells sold to Ellis and Helen Thompson, who were the last cafe' owners. Today, apartments occupy the building.

The little building to the north was once the office for Traverse Rural Oil Co-op. Ottes used the building for a root beer drive-up. The building is presently empty.

On the corner is the Clark building where M.L. and son Wyvil (Pee-Wee) Clark had their paint store.

The Nicollet County Soil Conservation once leased the front of the building before moving to the courthouse. Dick Clark now owns the building that houses Wayne Schmidt's Photo Shop.

Across Broadway was the Cities Service Oil Station, operated by Louie Haney for about 50 years. Later, Ab Haugdahl had a Pure Oil Station on the lot, operated by Willard Johnson before son, Sam Haugdahl, took over.

Taco John's Bill Fetter built a new building for the business. Bill sold to Brian Lange, who is the present operator.

To the east is the St. Peter Food Co-op building, now owned by Chuck and Mary Lou Brinker.
The building was built 50 years ago for the St. Peter Auto Co. with Loren Menk as manager. Later Dick Konechne operated his Minneapolis-Machine Implement out of the building, having moved from Third Street.

When Dick left for Arizona, the building was occupied by C & S Supply, which moved from the Wettergren building in 300 east block.

Stan Davis purchased the building from Pearl Pell and used the building for Davisco International, Inc. offices. Stan and k recently sold the building to the Brinkers.

The house north of Taco's was the Louie Haney home. The building is now occupied by Mark Zallek for his State Farm rance business.

The next house was the Frazier house, later Wills. The house is used by the Star Tribune-Pioneer Press for its St. Peter ce.

On the corner of Minnesota and Chestnut is the historic Bornemann house. The house was moved in from Traverse des ux. The Bornemanns continued to live there until it was sold to John Seitzer for an Antique Shop.

Helen Bornemann, a teacher in the St. Peter Public Schools for 46 years, cared for her aged folks, who lived in it until r passing.

The historic building was sold by John Seitzer to Shirley Walters and sister, Lu Monahan, for their business now called cers Two" Antique and Gift Shop.

rmer Chamber Was Home Repair Shop And Friendly Cafe

Let us continue our walk down memory lane with Bob Carter as our guide, since he has lived in the Central Business rict area most of his life.

ce Street

The first building we pass is on Grace Street, the former Chamber of Commerce headquarters at 214 W. Grace. The ding was built by Gilmon Hanson in 1944 for his appliance store. Later, Russell Thomas had a TV repair shop followed Esther's Friendly Cafe.

Earl Hanson ran a tavern for a while in the building before Malcolm MacKenzie and Bill Gustafson purchased the ding for their law offices. Dr. Joe Sheehan, optometrist, and Dr. Elmer Minar, chiropractor, also had offices in the ding. When Malcolm and Gus purchased the old Klein Furniture and Mortuary building, the Chamber moved their dquarters into the location.

When the Chamber moved to Front Street, John and Lorna Bungum leased the Chamber portion for their real estate ces. The property was sold by MacKenzie and Gustafson to the City for a parking lot.

Across Main Street (169), behind Dan's Hardware and Anthony Law Offices, is the Carquest Auto Parts of St. Peter, now erated by Steve Rustman.

ssau Street

We will now skip over to the east side of the First National Bank, where J.B. Sackett and later, son-in-law, E. E. Miller l an insurance agency. Later, Hilton Miller joined his father, E. E. Miller, in the business. On the west side of the Miller lding was the Nelson Print Shop. Emanuel Nyman, Paul Eastwood Sr. and Bernie McQuire operated the shop after son. Hartley Pell and son Bill purchased the Miller insurance business and when Hilton Miller sold the property to the st National Bank for a drive-in, the Pells moved across the street into their new building.

Dr. Stan Kaisersatt, DDS, had his offices in the next building and Mert Kirby had accounting offices in the basement. The lding was moved to Third Street and is occupied by Dr. Schelli Olmanson McCabe.

The building east of Kaisersatt's was that of Dr. F. P. Strathern and later Dr. C. S. Strathern. The building was once the St Peter Evangelical Lutheran School. The building is now a warehouse for Davisco on Front Street. The First National Bank also uses Kaisersatt and Strathern lots for their drive-inn.

Next east was a little green building that was once the office of Dr. Lambert, veterinarian. Miles Lunak occupied the building when he first came to St. Peter in 1931, with his shoe repair shop. Later, Hinnenthal and Stindt used the building fo their hardware storage. The building stood where the billboard now stands. To the rear of the Bridal Manor (Blenders) was Millie Thomas' Cafe.

Vi Norman moved her beauty shop (from where Karen's is) to the Blender building. Ray Block was the last to have a beauty salon in the building. Now Home Travel occupies the quarters.

Let's cross Main Street (Hwy 169) to Janel's Beauty Salon which is operated by Sharon Lynch. Years back, Judd Lange had his dairy delivery business from the building. Later, Leo and Evie purchased the building and leased it to the VFW Club. Margaret Mayer later owned the building and business with several operators working for her until she sold to Sharon Poncin.

Dr. M. E. Merkley owned the next building east. Dr. Merkley had one portion for his veterinarian practice. He leased the middle section to Herman Carlson for his shoe repair shop. The east portion was rented to Ralph Keltgen for this radiator shop. Tom Merkley now owns it and uses the entire building for his North American Taxidermy Studio.

The Warning and Asmussen houses were to the east and were removed for parking.

Lindberg Hardware

In the middle of the block on the north side of Nassau was Frank Ransom and Frank Lindberg's hardware store. Carl and Helen Lindberg took over the operation upon the death of the owners. When Larry Overn returned from World War II he became a partner in the business. Larry later was appointed Deputy Auditor of Nicollet County and then elected Auditor. The property has since been leveled for a city parking lot.

As we pass Godfather's (old First National Bank) building, Bob Carter reminded me the D. M. E. Lenander was on the second floor of the bank until he built a new building in the 300 block east for his offices and rental. Also I should mention that Janet Leverson and Zona Mans operated Gannon's for several years.

Across Minnesota Avenue and behind the old Nicollet County Bank (Dr. Dirks) is Rich Olson's State Farm Insurance. Years back, Ken Mayer operated his Culligan Soft Water from the building, before moving to Front Street. Leighton and Marge Swenson had their insurance business in the quarters until moving next door. Judy Olsson was the next occupant with her carpet business before Rich moved in.

Next door to Leighton Swenson's insurance business was Bud Kling's off-sale liquor store. Way back, the building housed a jewelry store, first run by Jack Schermerhorn, later Ordal, and then Tom and Marilyn Hawkins before they moved to their present location.

The brick building next to the alley is Karen Loeffler's Beauty Shop. For years the building has housed barber and beauty shops. Maves, Harris, and Bob West had their barber shops there. Vi Norman operated a beauty shop in the building until moving to where the Home Town Travel Bureau is located. I am sure there were several other operators in the building now owned by Karen.

Across the alley west was the old Jim Clark house. It was demolished to make room for Dr. E.G. Olmanson's new St. Peter Clinic. Dr. Helge Sandelin dentist also had offices in the building. When the new St. Peter Clinic was built on Sunrise Drive, Dr. Bob Dahleen, Sr., Dr. Bob Dahleen, Jr., and Dr. Pat O'Brien took over the building for their dental practice.

The building to the west, built by Jim Clark back in 1881, was used for a saloon. A. B. Chapman had a Variety Store for many years in the building until his retirement. Eiler Grand operated Grand's Produce (and later with his brother Ole) from the building. Ronald "Gump" Gardner ran the produce business after Ole. Later, Irv Weydert had his real estate business along with Wally Reineke insurance and others. Today, Attorney Jim Brandt owns the building, where he has his law offices. Bob Schmitz, when he sold his building, moved in with Jim until retiring.

The next building is Pell's Insurance and Real Estate building. For years a meat market stood on the premises, operated John Rausch, Allie Kopp, Curt Leverson and Mac Miller, Jack Leverson & Kraut, the Leverson twins, Jack and Gene, and ally Pete and Janet Leverson, before the building was demolished. Today Bill and his wife Sis Pell and their children, ari, Lee and Ben own and operate the business.

The building next door was built by Bob Schmitz who leased offices to Ellery Peterson, CPA, and Keith Hoffman, broker, o has his Edward D. Jones investment business in the quarters. The building is now owned by Terry Hoehn and Sam nson, and they have their Certified Public Accounting offices there.

The Flame Bar is to the west. The building was built by Ben Fallenstein in 1948. Since Ben's ownership, several people ve owned the business including John Jensen, Fran Kren, Gene Fissette, Bill Lager, Dick Hager, Jim Rheaume, Pat Hix, b McGinn, Bob Nyman, and Greg Knutson. Presently, Mike Hobday and Tracy Robb are the operators and owners of the me.

rk Row Was Home To Vicker's Garage

Let us continue our walk down memory lane by taking in the side streets in "beautiful downtown St. Peter." companying us is Jim Seitzer who at one time lived in an apartment about where the Nicollet County Bank drive-in is ated.

rk Row

On the south side of Park Row and east of Snyder Drugs was, for many years, Frank Vicker's Motor Inn Chevrolet age. The building was originally built by William A. Pell in 1876 for his livery business. Walter Rice purchased the siness which he operated for years.

Merrill Swenson and Harold Bode operated their Case Implement business from the building for several years. Gene v, who owned the Buick garage on the corner, took over the garage when Swenson and Bode disbanded. Harold Bode expectedly lost his life in an accident and Merrill went as a mechanic with the city. Jim Randolph took over both of the ldings and sold the property to Bob Swedberg for his new Snyder Drugs.

East of Snyder's was the house where Paul Haesecke lived. Later his son Bill and family lived there before the city moved the house for a city parking lot.

We now pass Stensby Cleaners and go across the highway to the alley between Arrow Ace Hardware and St. Peter mber Company where Charlie Kayser, Sr. had a block building in which he operated his Kayser's Taxi, Baggage and ight business. The building later became the home of Ben Miner's garage. Ben sold Massey-Harris machinery and Kaiser, zer and Teraplane cars.

The building was removed and the property is part of Duane DeBlieck's lumber complex.

Across Park Row on the north side was the St. Peter Laundry operated Dave Haack, and later, his son Harmon. The nsbys, when they first came to St. Peter, operated their business from that location until they purchased the "Tuddie" llenberg property on the corner of Park Row and Minnesota Ave. The laundry building is presently used as a repair shop Arrow Ace Hardware.

Across Minnesota Ave. (highway 169) behind the Wells Federal building (old Nicollet Hotel) is the Schumacher building ned, until recently, by Warnings who sold to Bob and Becky Strom. The east part of the building was where John Chrest his St. Peter Milk Company business. Later, Spiess and Harold "Peanuts" Coulter took over the building when Dick tby willed them his plumbing business. Dick Ryan became the owner when "Peanuts" retired. Now Dick's son, Rich, is owner of Ryan's Plumbing and Heating.

The west side of the building was George Langguth's Ideal Bakery. Upon George's retirement, longtime employee "Red" Cabe became the owner. After Red, the Frey brothers, Ray and Bob, operated the business. Jerry McCabe, Red's son, took r from the Freys and had the last bakery in that location. Dueber's Fabrics located in the building with Lu Monahan as nager. When Dueber's left, Bob and Becky Strom opened their off-sale liquor store in the building.

To the west is Jim Davis' MacKenzie Insurance. The building was once the home of the Wakefield family. George and Norma MacKenzie purchased the building for their insurance and real estate business. Upon the death of his grandparents, George and Norma MacKenzie, Jim took over the insurance business.

Across Third Street on Park Row, where Gib Voss lives, was Jim Dadey's Blacksmith shop. Church records indicate that when the present Church of the Holy Communion was built in 1870, the old church, built in 1856, was moved a few blocks and was converted into a blacksmith shop.

Let us continue our journey up Park Row to Washington Avenue where we find Ann Burkhardt's Bed & Breakfast. The house was once owned by Judge Henry Moll and later by son, Clare. Clare later became president of the First National Bank.

We now go one block north to Broadway and head east to where "Tillie" Weber owned and operated Broadway Grocery. Joe and Sherry Peterson purchased the property and converted the store into apartments.

We then pass the corner where Ab Haugdahl operated his Pure Oil Station for 50 years. The building has recently been leveled for the future Community Bank on the corner of Third and Broadway.

Across Highway 169 over the bridge to east St. Peter is where Geldner's Home Line Furniture is located.

East of Geldner's once was the place where Bobby Henderscheid had a sawmill. Next was Ronald "Gump" Gardner's Tavern. When floods persisted, "Gump" moved his building across the highway to where Bob Wright and Chuck Mines now have their Whiskey River business.

John Malmborg's Body Shop, once owned by Jim Randolph, is the next building.

On the other side of the depot and tracks was Dick Shepherd's Ready Mix plant. Dick sold to Central Concrete of Mankato, which has since abandoned the plant.

The next operation is the Hormel Buying Station. The station was originally built by St. Peter merchants for the St. Peter Livestock Association. Mel Lurth ran the operation before the sale to Hormel. Former mayor, Doug Pyan, came to St. Peter in 1955 and managed the station for 32 years. Today, Jim Fiala is the manager.

Cargill was in the next building and was located on the "rabbit road" as was Arnie Gerber's welding shop. After a couple of floods, Cargill moved to the Industrial Park at the north end of St. Peter, and Gerber to Highway 22 near the now-closed airport.

The rabbit road east of the Minnesota River seemed to be a popular road for younger folks who loved to park and spark and enjoy nature at the same time. Sometimes there were so many lovers that the rabbits became annoyed.

On the north side of Hwy. 99, was Gib and Helen Ewalt's Tile Factory, Harley Hohenstein's Fertilizing Plant, and Mike Paul's Body Shop, until it was moved to St. Julien Street in the north end.

Ken Santelman's John Deere Implement was also on the north side of Hwy. 99. Bob Millard once had a Goodyear Tire Shop in the Santelman building until merging with his Amoco Station on Main Street. Lee Maxfield operated St. Peter Glass Works in the building after the departure of Millard,. Lee rented one of the adjacent buildings to Cliff Isley for Cliff's Auto Repair. When the last flood came along, Lee moved his operation to the St. Peter Community Spirit Industrial Park and leased the west portion of the building to Cliff.

The North Star Concrete Plant still stands by the tracks. However, the plant is closed and the business is operated out of Mankato.

Atlas elevator, later called Peavey, was on the side of the tracks for nearly 100 years. Roger and Clem Leonard were owners of the St. Peter Grain and Feed business in the building and were the last to occupy it.

The old St. Peter Depot was adjacent to the tracks and it was there on Sept. 23, 1909, that a special train from St. Paul ught the body of Gov. John A. Johnson, accompanied by several coaches of friends.

The next business is that of Bob Wright and Chuck Mines, Whiskey River Emporium, with several additions since Gump dner owned it.

Finally we come to Hanson Silo company, owned and operated by Bill Hanson and son, Cliff. When Bill died and Cliff red, the St. Peter operation closed.

We now approach the Minnesota River, once named the St. Peter River, where we end our walk.

e North End Of Town Is Today's Stop

Let us continue our journey down memory Lane by covering the north end of St. Peter with Glenn "Jake" Jacobsen as guide and driver, since Jake has lived in the Traverse des Sioux and St. Peter area all his life.

We head north on Minnesota Ave. (Highway 169) east side until we come to where the St. Peter Greenhouse and Tate's iques are located. Years back, Al and Margaret Mortenson had a dairy operation, Harlan Benson a brickcrete factory, and ynard Vaughan a manufacturing operation in that area. Paul and Catherine Bell operated their Credit Bureau from their se south of the greenhouse. Ras and Marie Pedersen started the greenhouse, followed by Virg Jensen and now Gerry Diane Lunderberg.

We continue to the Treaty Site History Center, turn around head south, passing Seitzer Ford and Traverse des Sioux den Center. On the south side of the center is the Dranttel et sign, replacing the former Charles Street.

We pass the Holiday Value Center with the Highway Ag iness to the west Across Julien Street is McDonald's. We tt south until we come to the Americinn Motel where the H. Hermel Candy & Tobacco operation was for over 35 rs before moving to Mankato.

TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER

The Treaty Site History Center

Heading north we see the Texaco Convenience Store naged by Dan Malvin. At one time there was a DX gas station on the location that was leased by Don Scholl, Sandor sa, Bob Witty, and others. Next on old Minnesota Avenue is the Country Kitchen, now owned and operated by Frank Connie Weber. The first lessee when it was built was Karl Tesch, followed by Roger Block and later Randy Gustafson n Pat Meyer, manager. The Gustafsons recently sold to the Webers.

To the north is the MJJ Liquor off-sale, formerly Riverview Bottle Club, and before that the Russ Dietrick Laundromat Erickson's Music Store. Ray Olson, Sr. built a new Fairway Store next door. Ray sold to Warren Wilke who in turn sold e Barta. Wilke and Barta used the building where the liquor store is also. Today, Bernie McQuire and Steve Koble rate their Nelson Printing operation out of the north building.

On the corner of old Minnesota Ave. and Union Street is the Dairy Queen owned and operated by Dave and Colleen . Fifty years ago "Lefty" Lutz and Lyle Albrecht and their wives, Vera "Pete" and Alta, operated the Boulevard Inn Root r stand there. Later Bob and Mathilda Campbell operated the Quick Stop Drive Inn on the location before selling to Mel Carol Werth for the Dairy Queen operation.

We take a side trip up Union to catch Betty Von Essen's Sunnyside Florist Shop, previously owned by Rick Leverson. On way back we pass the Nicollet County Fairgrounds, St. Peter Motel and Lagers, Inc. The motel was started by Soren and aa Smidt, who sold to Harold Martin. Art and Connie Schwartz, Russ and Candy Hoehn, and Laszlo Lavius operated the el before Steve and Terez Rozsa, the present owners.

The Lagers, the late Bill and Jerry, moved next door 30 years ago from their Broadway location.

We cross old Minnesota Ave. to head north on the east side. We remember that Eddie and Jack Vogel had the Shell Gas Station, later Shadow's Shell, operated by "Shadow" Bartelmehs. The building has been demolished for Lager's parking lot.

Next was the Dairy Queen, started by Arnie and Elsie Severson and owned later by "Frosty" and Winnie Chapman. When the Dairy Queen was moved to its present location, Russ Thomas built a building there for his TV repair shop. Later, Dick and Marge Bloom owned the building and leased it to John Elbert.

Today, Mike Bloom has his Intelligent Design business in the building.

To the north, Dick and Marge Bloom had Dick's North Star Station. The station was removed for a new Dick's Sporting Goods Store. Presently the building is leased to St. Peter Consignment and Thrift Store, operated by St. Peter's Catholic Church.

The North End, Continued

Next going north is Ken Dahlgren's St. Peter Mobile Homes and St. Peter Car Wash operation. On Brown Street, to the east of the car wash, is Erv Ohotto's Auto Repair. We pass the Green Valley Trailer Court, where Bill Boucher had his hatchery and school bus operation. Next is Ron and Dana Johnson's Floor Covering, in a new building. Crossing Dodd Avenue we come upon the place where Len and Ethel Edwards, later Joe and Max Dvorak, and finally "Butch" Frey had a Nite Club.

As we come to Traverse des Sioux Park, we turn around and head south, passing Al Passon's Auto Repair, Dave Passon's Auto Cleaning Service, Spencer Arndt's former real estate office, Joe Keeley's Landscaping and Drainage operation and Steve Gostonczik's Northland Transfer operation. We remember where the late Bob Edwards had his sign business, Bernie Sjostrom's CBS off-sale liquor store, "Ike" Ewert's Alignment shop and Jess Elwood's Phillip 66 gas station were. All these buildings have since been demolished.

Before we come to United Building Center, formerly Lampert Lumber, who purchased the Monahan Lumber, we take a right turn on north Third to catch Bob Von Essen's Auto Repair and Towing, Volk's Electric, and Lyle's Welding, formerly Orval Olson's. On the other side of Hallett's Pit, we pick up Jim Wendroth's Construction, Southern Valley Co-op, Gerald Retzing's Empire Tool on north Third.

We zig-zag back to St. Julien to cover Mike Paul's Body Shop, Don's Appliance warehouse and Ron Bishop's construction company. Where Ron has his house is where "Jake" Jacobsen's grandfather had his house and garden and flowers operation in years past.

St. Julien Street Starts This Week's North End Tour

Let us continue our journey down memory Lane by finishing the north and west side of St. Peter with Glenn "Jake" Jacobsen at the wheel. We continue up Julien Street past Alumacraft Boat Co. where the Modular Industries once built prefab homes. The St. Peter Public Works building, formerly H. W. Komatz Construction, is to the west.

We turned on Swift Street and headed south to catch the Armory and Onan's (formerly ADC Products). We turned around where we passed the Onan Receiving Station, formerly Larson Ski manufacturing plant. To the east and in back of Onan's is Bucky and Ralph Walter's Construction operation.

We went back to St. Julien St. where we turned north on Gault Street, passing U.S. West and Cargill Seed, Lee Maxfield's St. Peter Glass, St. Peter Welding and Cliff Isley's Auto Repair on the west.

On the east side of Gault we passed Phenix Biocomposite, Inc., formerly where Jamar Industries and D & B Housing located. Later, Stan and Mark Davis owned and operated the building where they stored Davisco Products. Stan and sold the building to the Development Corporation for the Phenix operation.

In 1976, Gov. Rudy Perpich, by invitation, cut ribbons at Jamar, D & B, GTO and Community Spirit Industrial Park, the of the bicentennial celebrating our nation's 200th year after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, thus the e Community Spirit Park.

We keep going north, passing Ken Dahlgren's Multi-Storage, Tate's Construction, and George Boyum's Jarraff Industries, re Eddie Allen had his Central Logging operation. Eddie still uses the land to the east on Dodd Ave. for his logging ness, where Carl Borgeson operated a saw mill for over half a century. We travel over to Ritt Street passing Taytronics, erly GTO Enterprises, to Fifth where we headed south, passing Charles Hendrickson's Organ Factory.

Next, we drive up the short Davis Street, with Uber Construction on the south and the St. Peter Public Schools offices on north, reaching Washington Ave. where we turned right. On the curve was where Johnny Engesser once had a tavern, Dewey Lurth's. Dewey afterwards converted the tavern into living quarters. We turn around and head south, passing any Alliance Church to Traverse Road.

On the corner of Washington and Traverse was where "Ole" Strand had moved his Pullman box car that was used for a rn. Later his son Allen, followed by Ralph "Pete" Gilbertson, operated the business. Across the street is Klein's Funeral ne, started in 1854 and St. Peter's oldest business.

We travel west on Traverse Road, passing North Elementary School and the land on which the Komatz Co. had its nning. We pass First Lutheran Church and turn north, passing Greenhill Cemetery, Pell's two new eight-plexes, Sunrise rtments, and the now vacant corner where Wally Covell had his stables. Later, Keith and Sharon Rasche owned the erty. On the north side of Sunrise Drive for many years was Arnie Gerber's Welding Shop.

We made a 180-degree turn and headed south again on Sunrise Drive passing the Nicollet County Highway buildings the former Seymour chicken egg plant. The property is now owned by Frank and Janet Fredlund, who have demolished uildings.

We cross Traverse Road and pass the Grandview Good Samaritan Home, Assemblies of God Church, St. Peter Clinic, ise Driving Range, Calvary Cemetery, Greg Engels and Mark Conover's new St. Peter Dental Clinic, Bob and Lois son's (Johnson Towers) building that is occupied by Lee Ann Meyer's Lee's New Image, Mike Lunderberg's Number I an, St. Peter Alternative School, Unimin Corp., and United States Farm Service Agency on the west side to Sunrise Drive. Floyd B. Johnson Field is on the east side, with the high school further to the east.

We turn right on the Fort Road where we complete our tour with KRBI on the north and Gustavus Adolphus College plex to the south.

ist Of Who's Who In St. Peter History

The following is a partial list of early settlers and businesses, professions and occupations in St. Peter. The 1930 Herald nond Jubilee, Gresham's History, 1916, and Dave McQuire provided the following information:

2 - Z. S. Gault (Traverse des Sioux) merchant, Nicollet County register of deeds and auditor, banker.

4 - J. R. Gardner, first storekeeper in St. Peter. Captain William B. Dodd, engineer, road contractor, developer and U.S. Army. Charles E. Flandrau, attorney, judge and Indian agent, attorney for St. Peter Company.

Willis A. Gorman, developer, territorial governor. M. B.Stone, attorney and developer. G. S. Patch, developer. Robert Bunker, developer. Henry Jones, developer, druggist. Ames Bros., developers.

M. G. Evenson, tailor and hardware. J. H. Smith, blacksmith and hotel keeper. J. H. Snyder, surveyor, farmer and book store proprietor. W. W. Pell, horse breeder and trader.

Thomas C. Wright, freight hauler (oxen). Charles R. Davis, attorney and congressman. William Klein, furniture, undertaker and miller.

1855 - Samuel Dunning, harness maker and livestock buyer. H. M. Frey, mason and barber. Dr. Hiram Wesley Catlin, physician.

1856 - James Clark, saloon keeper. Casper Baberich, merchant and miller. James Nutter, hardware. Dennis O'Brien, building contractor.

Benjamin Rogers, merchant-tailor, county auditor. F. E. Lang, jeweler-watchmaker, later mayor. J. P. Spiess, shoemaker. E. St. Julien Cox, attorney, judge, legislator, first mayor, Matthew Engesser, brewer.

1857 - Jacob Bauer, carpenter, hotel keeper. J. B. Sackett, county auditor, register of deeds, insurance, U.S. revenue collector. H. C. Miller, newspaper business, foreign diplomat.

1858 - Capt. T. G. Carter, banker, army officer, real estate and insurance. James Delaney, printer, deputy postmaster, register of deeds. Capt. A. K. Skaro, officer Union Army, contractor, county treasurer.

1859 - Joseph K. Moore, St. Peter Tribune publisher. W. C. Essler, foundry business.

1860 - Dr. Asa W. Daniels, physician, member State Board of Health. C. T. Brown, real estate, state senator, Indian agent. H. J. Ludcke, clerk and painter.

1861 - Julius Baker, miller. Henry Essler, Sr., foundry business.

1862 - N. Galles, wagon maker. Henry Moll, merchant, harness business, sheriff, judge and mayor. J. N. Treadwell, merchant, legislator, banker; J. E. Miller and J. A. Angle, dentists.

These Streets Deserve A Salute

The information for this article is taken from the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee, Gresham's History, the Madison Lake Circa 1855, and conversation with Martin Menk.

Descendants of St. Peter's First Families
William C. Pell, Irene Miller Dahl, Martha Lamberton Wilson, Bob Wettegren
Pell and Wettergren are the great-grandchildren of W.W.and Elizbeth Pell. Irene Dahl is the grandchild of J.B. and Corilla Sackett. Martha Wilson is the great-granddaughter of Captain William B. and Harriet Dodd, the founders of St. Peter.

According to Martin, Dodd Street was the farthest east street in St. Peter. While only a few blocks in length, it was located below City Hall about where the power lines come into St. Peter and where the mill pond is in Riverside Park.

Dodd and Market Streets are no longer shown on the city map. The Dodd Road that runs near Kasota to Mendota was a part of the great "Appian Way" ordered built by the United States War Department. The road, east of St. Peter, ran through Cleveland by the elevator in Le Sueur County and continued to Mendota.

Dodd Road was built as a military road for the movement of troops and supplies. According to the newspaper Circa, Captain Dodd paid 100 men (mostly Irish) $25 for 26 days' work with l and lodging furnished. The men slept in tents under their own blankets because of the hordes of mosquitoes. Many ı quit without the pay due them because of the conditions. One surveyor sided with Dodd saying, "Dodd was losing) a week on the road project."

Due to the panic of 1858, Dodd wasn't paid the $3,000 for his work until just before his death on Aug. 23, 1862, while ending the City of New Ulm during the Dakota Conflict. Captain Dodd, his wife Harriet and two children are buried back ıe Church of the Holy Communion, to whom he gave the land while laying out Dodd's addition to St. Peter.

Dodd Avenue, located on the land that was annexed from Traverse Township a few years ago, is what was once known ıe Old Fort Road and later Airport Road. The Old Fort Road, now Dodd Avenue, started a few rods north of the rpretive Center, ran west past Jack Wilson's to Fort Ridgley, 48 miles west. Now the Fort Road starts at Minnesota nue and Grace Street and goes past the KRBI Studio to the Fort.

Skaro Street is named after Captain A.K. Skaro, who was at the New Ulm Conflict before joining the Union Army. He his life in 1865 near Nashville, during the Civil War. His body was returned to St. Peter, where the city's first military eral was held in 1866 at the First Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion.

St. Julien Street is named after another military captain, E. St. Julien Cox, an attorney, judge, legislator and first mayor of Peter in 1965.

All the captains mentioned are most deserving of the honor of having a street, road or avenue named in their honor.

eting Those Who Have Shaped The Future

The following information for the year 1882 was taken from the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee, Gresham's History, information from my archives. It is my intent that the following article listing the businesses and professionals of that will be of value to the present and future generations.

C. Amundson & Company, dry goods, groceries and clothing; A. J. Lamberton, dry goods and clothing; Henry Jones, ggist; Chauncey McAllister, grocer; S. O. Strand, millinery; F. Lang, jeweler; Casper Baberick, dry goods, groceries; iam Thomas, boots and shoes; John Rausch, meat market; T. Spiess, boots and shoes; Peter Cashion, livery barn; Randall oble, groceries and crockery; John W. A. Winters, restaurant; C. D. Colby, gunsmith; P. Williamson, boots and shoes; on Frazier, gunsmith.

Blumberg & Son, merchant, tailor; Klein's, furniture and undertaking; John Wallin, Furniture; John Mason, hardware; W. Counsville, lumber and farm implements; Stark Brothers & Co., dry goods and groceries; Nutter & Heritage, hardware and es; Laird, Norton & Damren, lumber; H. J. Bacoby, "99 Cent Store."

Peter Bolstad, carpenter and contractor; Michael Kneip, harness and saddlery; John Foot, drygoods, N. A. Wettergren, t market; William Schimmel, wheat, butter and egg dealer; Charles Rost, harness shop; Clarence Ennis, human hair er; John Krohn, boots and shoes; Carter & Montgomery, insurance and real estate; J. B. Sackett, insurance.

Philip Dick & Company, general clothing; J. H. Snyder, books and stationery; Frederick Schmidt, boots and shoes; Carl schman, grocer; Volk & Company, furniture; Oliver Anderson, dry goods and groceries; A. Hermann, boots and shoes; A. enz, harness goods; G. W. Steinke, agriculture implements; Mrs. H. J. Ludcke, millinery; W. O. Powell, paints and painter; as Scheuder, jeweler; A. Carlson, agriculture implements; J. A. Stemple, grocer; I. W. Norwood, marble worker; N. M. er, feed store and auctioneer; J. M. Peterson, blacksmith and machine shop.

C. R. Woods, stoves and tinware; L. Patow, stoves and tinware; S. Schumaker, dry goods and groceries; T. M. Perry, St. r Times; Martin Williams, St. Peter Tribune.

Professional men of St. Peter in 1882 were: A.W. Daniels, D. B. Collins, G. F. Merritt, and J. J. Catlin, physicians; G. S. , Ladd & Stone, M. G. Hanscome and C. R. Davis, attorneys; J. E. Miller and J. A. Angle, dentists.

St. Peter Hosted First Football Game In 1896

This information for the "Century of St. Peter High Football" was taken from Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth's "A Century of Gustavus Athletics 1880-1980," the St. Peter Herald, files of Coach Frank Fredlund and the archives of the writer which are strictly personal.

According to "Holly's" book, the first football game ever played in St. Peter was played at the Driving Park (Fairgrounds) in 1896. The game was played between St. Peter High School and Gustavus Adolphus College. Gustavus won 8-0. Both teams had the same coach, who also officiated the game as he was the only person who knew the rules.

When one talks football, one automatically thinks of the Wittys (Witte) and the Frawleys.

Of all the great football players that graced the halls of St. Peter High School, only two made it to the professional leagues. Earl "Kid" Witte, after a brilliant career at SPHS and GAC, played with Green Bay and later Philadelphia in the National Football League, and Steve Neils, a graduate of St. Peter High School, Deerfield Academy and three years of football at the University of Minnesota (freshmen were not eligible), played with the St. Louis Cardinals for seven years.

Only three players played in Division I football, namely Steve Neils, Scott Annexstad, Alex Hass at the University of Minnesota, and Ethan Allen, who played with Stanford where he is now coaching.

I recall in 1928, on Thanksgiving Day, when St. Peter defeated Mankato (only one high school then) 12-7 on the Gustavus field. There wasn't such a thing as a Booster Club, so the mothers of the St. Peter players served a Thanksgiving dinner just east of the field.

The next year was the team that the late Halsey Hall described as one of the best teams ever to play the game in all his years of officiating. That year St. Peter played the first game ever under the lights in Southern Minnesota. The game was between Redwood Falls and St. Peter, with St. Peter winning 20-0 on what is now Hollingsworth Field. Connie Gustafson was the Saints' coach and his very close friend, Ken Stockton, coached Redwood Falls. That same year, Halsey Hall officiated the Saints' game when St. Peter snapped Glencoe's 32-game winning streak. On Thanksgiving Day, the Saints defeated Mankato on a frozen field at the old Mankato Fairgrounds 6-0, for the Southern Minnesota Championship.

The three best punters in St. Peter High School football would have to be Lawrence "Fat Lauman in the early 1930s, Don "Gunner" Volk and Jeff Baker. Lauman later punted for GAC, Volk for South Dakota State and Mankato State. I remember Lauman getting off an 80-yard kick down at the Nicollet County Fairgrounds.

Speed seems to be a great asset in any game, and I believe speed runs in families.

Stan Davis, captain of the Saints in 1935, possessed good speed as did his son Mark, who was on the 1958 undefeated team, and his grandsons Mitch and Marty, from the 1981 State Championship team. Don Miller coached both the 1958 and '59 undefeated teams.

The Kruger, Mines, Anthony and Straka families had good speed.

Of course, the fastest individual runner was Ethan Allen followed by Matt Dawson, Rick Favor, Rich Ryan, Bob Overson, Joe McKloskey and scores of others.

The best blocker in my opinion was Dale Scholl from the 1943 undefeated, unscored on team. Dale, "Beanie" and "Tonk" Langsjoen played in the same backfield at GAC later on.

Gordie Quist was named All-State in 1943, as was Vane Emery Dummer in 1944. Ted Miller was the coach in 1943. Let me say that there are several media All-State teams now compared to Ted Peterson's Minneapolis Tribune team in the earlier days.

The most brothers to play for the Saints were the six Langsjoen brothers, Arne, "Flit", "Odie", Leif, Verner "Beanie", and "Tonk".

n 1955, Kirk MacKenzie was All-State. Rick Nielsen transferred from Windom to St. Peter, where he made All-State in . Rick Lager, who was on the 1975 team that lost in the finals to St. Thomas Academy, was named All-State that year.

n 1976, when St. Peter, under Coach Lyle Eidsness, won their first state football title, Ron Straka and Dan Bowles were ted All-Staters. Other All-Staters were Todd Miller in 1978, Dan Johnson in 1979, and Scott Annexstad and Brad Braun the 1981 State Championship team. (That is the year that the Saints beat Hermantown 18-14 for the state title. It was so that Coach Frank Fredlund compared the game conditions equally to this year's Melrose game.)

Rich Favor in 1986, Ethan Allen in 1989, Alex Haas in 1994 (now at the U. of M.) and Brent Olson and Ryan Gustafson the 1995 State Runner-Up team were also All-State. Gustafson is the only junior on the mythical All-State team.

The longest game in St. Peter football is when they lost to New Ulm in five overtimes in 1993. The greatest single play for the Saints would have to be the extra point that put the Saints in the dome. It took a perfect snap from Andy nberg, a perfect hold by Brian Haukoos and a perfect kick by Joe Kern.

The Academic All-State team which Coach Frank Fredlund helped organize consisted not only of great athletes but ant students. The list consists of Eric Hokanson 1987, Heath Hayer 1988, Eddie Rundell 1989, Mike Gunderson 1992, Pat e 1993, Chris Barnick 1994, and Brent Olson 1995.

The Saints have been in the State Football play-offs nine times since 1975, winning the State in 1976 and 1981, runner-n 1975 and 1995.

in closing I would like to quote the late "Dizzy" Dean who used to say, "If you have done it - it ain't braggin'." Fredlund the Saints have done it.

veling Back In Time To 1896

Since many of the Herald readers are descendants of the business people I have mentioned in the past and present, I aking you back to 1896. The information for this story is taken from T. Harry Belknap's St. Peter Business Directory, the eter Herald and the writer's archives.

Agriculture Implements: Carlson, A.; Mason, Joseph; Nutter Bros.; Rounsville, N. H. & O. S.; Steinke, G. W.

Art Goods: Baberick, Casper

Attorneys: Benson, Henry; Davis, Charles R.; Hanscombe, G. W.; Ives, Gordon S.; Stone, A. A.

Bands: Citizens Cornet Bank; Lagerstrom's Cornet Band; Gustavus Adolphus College Cornet; Hoefers Orchestra.

Banks: First National; Nicollet County Bank.

Barber Shops: Johnson, G. W.; Kramer, G.; Malino, E. E.; Stengel, A. J.

Bicycles: Carlson, A.; Klein & Co. Mason, Joseph; Nutter Bros.; Volk, R C .

Blacksmiths: Childs, John; Laumann, A. O.; Nutter, Charles H.; Sheehan, John; Dadey, Jim; Lucken, Marin; Peterson, J. M.; Yuke C.

Builders and Plasterers: Anderson, S. S.; Blomgren, Gus; Kopp & Smith; Olson, A.; Keogh, John; Mitchell, Joseph; Billingsley, J. D.; Dunham, J.H.; Miller, John; Snyder, J. J.; Mador, Chas.; Rinkel & McCabe.

Butterick Patterns: Baberick, Casper.

Carpets & Oil Cloths: Klein & Co.; Volk, R. C.

Cigar Manufacturer: Danby, James; Pioneer Cigar Factory (over Free Press); Holz, W. H.; Spang & Walter.

Clothing: Dick, Philip; Haesecke, Paul.

Groceries & Glassware: Baberick, Casper; Star Clothing House.

Dentists: Patten & Rosenquist; Snyder, J. F.; Williams, T. F.

Dressmakers: Ahlin, Miss; Grams, Mrs. M.; Johnson, Miss T.; Bramshea, Miss E.; Hall, Mrs. J. L.; Johnson, Miss A.; Kneeland, Mrs. J.; McCabe, Miss B.; Riegal & Karpen; Smith, Miss A.; Lilly Miss M.; Osborne, Miss R.; Rounsville, Mrs.; Schultz, Miss T.

Drugs: Paul, A. H.; Poetz, Joseph; Satory, P. W.

Dry Goods: Amundson, C.; Anderson, O.; Baberick, Casper; Harris, I.; Knoll, Theo.; Strand, S. O.

Express: American Express

Wire Fence: Young, Matt; Page Wire Fence (Konsbruck Hotel).

Flour & Feed: Strauch, G. M.

Flour Mill: Sackett & Fay.

Fruits & Confectionery: Peterson & Wilcox.

Furniture: Klein & Co.; Volk, C. R.

General Merchandise: Baberick, Casper; Christofferson, M.; Fay, P. K.; Johnson & Mueller; Knoll, Theo; Krisatis, H.; Schumaker Bros.

Greenhouse: Koss, T.

Groceries: Baberick, C.; Davis & Lundeen; Hedberg, J. P.; Klitzke, H. ; Knoll, Theo; Rinkel, William; Thomas, Mrs. John.

Hardware: Evenson Bros; Nutter Bros.; Mason, Joseph; Weisgerber & Ransom.

House Furnishing: Woods, Charles.

Harness: Coleman, R.; Kneip, M.; Rost, Charles

Hats & Caps: Dick, Philip; Knoll, Theo.

Horsebreeder: Loomis, Henry; Pell, William A.

Hotels: Central Hotel, Clifton House, Commercial Hotel, Courtney Hotel, Fiedler's Hotel, Konsbruck Hotel, Le Sueur House, Nicollet House, Schmidt's Hotel, St. Peter House.

Insurance & Collections: Benson, Henry; Lauman, W. G.; Sackett, J.B.; Stone, L. B.

Jeweler: Engesser, M. C.; Staacke, C. C.; Staacke, G. W.; Schlueder, Julius; Rost, Tony.

Laundry: Kardell Bros.; Wing Chong.

Livery Stables: Brady, Frank; Loomis, Henry; Rice, Walter.

Lumber: Lampert Lumber Co.; Standard Lumber Co.

Marble Works: Johnson, M. B.

Meat Markets: Brinkman, C.; Miller, Peter; Rausch, J. B.

Merchant Tailors: Bromler, J. P.; Dick, Philip; Haglund, P.; Roeder, Fred.

Millinery: Bowden, Mrs. M.; Hanlon, Miss Rose; Rushmoe, Miss E.M.; Roulet, L.; Strand, S. O.

Music Teachers: Childs, Miss M.; Forbush, Miss Kate; Hoefer, Miss M.; Kayser, Miss J.; Lagerstrom, Dr. D.; Pehrson, Miss A.; Pehrson, Aaron.

Newspapers: St. Peter Free Press, St. Peter Herald, St. Peter Journal, St. Peter Tribune

Oils: Standard Oil Co.

Paints & Oils: Ludcke, J. H.; Mason, Joseph; Nutter Bros.

Physicians: Collins, Dr. D. B.; Daniels, Dr. Jared W.; Daniels, Asa W.; McIntyre, Dr. George; Merritt, Dr. George.

Piano: Whipple & Danielson.

Picture Frames & Shades: Klein & Co.; Ludcke, Henry; Volk, R. C.

Plumbers: Potts, Al.

Pop Works: Scheibel, J.

Post Office: 218 Minn. Ave.

Public Library: Dick Block

Real Estate: Benson, Henry N.; Jacoby, H. J.

ontinuing Look at St. Peter's 1896 Business Scenery

The information for this continued story of businesses in 1896 is taken from T. Harry Belknap's St. Peter Business ctory, the St. Peter Herald and the writer's archives.

Restaurants: Holmberg, A. J.; Miller, P.; Peterson & Wilcox; Swanbeck, Nels.

Saloons: Anderson, Chas.; Bolke, F.; Central Hotel (sample room); Clark, James; Cooney & Dribble; Courtney Bros.; Knoll, Theo.; Martinson, J.; Rinkel, G. H.; Sporing, H.; Strewlow, O.; Stubbs & Minton; Walter, John; Westphal F.

Sewing Machines: Carlson, A.; Klein & Co.; Mason, Joseph; Nutter Bros. Whippel & Danielson.

Telegraph: W. U. Office.

Undertaking: Klein & Co.; Volk, R. C.

Veterinarian Surgeons: Lambert, Dr. John; Smith, Dr. J. W.

Wagons & Buggies: Carlson, A.; Mason, Joseph; Nutter Bros.; Stiegelbauer; Kohl, William.

Wallpaper: Ludcke, Henry J.

Windmills: McDonald & Thayer; Tostenson, John

Woolen Factory: Bornemann, Bernhard & Son.

Common Council City of St. Peter: Erickson, L. M. Mayor; Carlson, A. president; McCabe, J. vice-president; Gault, Zuriel S.; Mallgren, J.; Steinke, G. W.; Miller, Henry C.

Board of County Commissioners: Erickson, L. M., chairman, 1st District; Johnson, John Adrian, 2nd District; Dick, Phillip, 3rd District; Bushard, W. N. C., 4th District; Randall, H. C., 5th District; Joseph, superintendent's clerk; Hurst, John H. supervisor; West, Elizabeth, supervisor; Fahning, John, head nurse; Peterson, Caroline head nurse.

Churches: Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal); Church of the Immaculate Conception; German Catholic; English Lutheran (Zions Church); German Lutheran Church; Salvation Army corps; St. Peter's Catholic; Swedish Lutheran; Union Presbyterian.

Note: L. M. Erickson was chairman of Nicollet County Commissioners and also mayor of St. Peter at the same time.

Fan's comments on the 100 years of St. Peter High School football:

I was reminded that Don Hergert is the only regular football player from the 1929 team still living in St. Peter.

County Officers: Henzel, Carl, auditor; Webster, John, treasurer; Lindstrom, Albert, resister of deeds; Block, J. H. sheriff; Blomberg, G. A. Jr., clerk District Court; Peterson, John, judge of Probate; Schulz, C. G., supt. of schools; Stone, A. A., county attorney; Sackett, J. B., court commissioner; Anderson, O. J., county surveyor; Merritt, Dr. Geo. F., coroner; Door, H. W., supt. poor.

Minnesota State Hospital: Medical staff - Tomlinson, Dr. Harry Ashton, physician in chief and supt.; Ghilgren, Gustave Arthur, M. D.; Foster, Thos. Reese, M. D., ass't physician; Everitt, Ella B., M. D., ass't physician and gynecologist; Valm, H. D., clinical clerk and pathologist.

Subordinate Staff - Faialka,

Connie Gustafson, the coach of the 1929 team is the first of the four generations to play for the high school. Bill, Randy, Ryan, Matt Burg and several other Gustafsons followed Coach Connie.

Several people reminded me that the best place-kicker had to be Chris Conlon who kicked a 45-yard field goal in 1979 against Waseca.

Don Nesheim, St. Peter High School baseball coach and A. D. until retirement, was All-State halfback on Ted Peterson's Minneapolis Tribune in 1949, while playing for Spring Valley High School.

Many people have written or contacted me about their opinions and recollections on Down Memory Lane. Let's hear from you.

Wandering Off Memory Lane To Look At The Top Stories Of 1995

Not all the events in St. Peter in 1995 were doom and gloom. My Herald readers have asked me to list the top 10 news stories for 1995. I must say that I differ on five that are listed by my friends at the Herald.

Editor Bill Floyd hit the nail on the head when he said murders, suicide and escape have put a somber note on the year's history. Peggy Palmer, publisher of the Herald, wisely disqualified herself from decision-making since she has been at the paper less than six months.

The top stories that I would eliminate and why are as follows:

5 The proposed biomass facility is still in its embryonic stage. Wait until it becomes a reality. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

7 Where did he come from? Congratulations are in order. However elections have been won or lost in St. Peter by the lip of a coin.

3. No more landings at the 50-year old St. Peter airport. The airport is gone--so is the promoter, the former city administrator Z. Z. Zoul.

9. The suspension and resignation of a teacher/coach. It isn't the first nor will it be the last.

10. Extended phone service between St. Peter and Mankato. Another controversial issue, but there are more important stories.

five stories I would add in place of the eliminated are as follows:

- First National Bank share-holders stand fast on an attempted hostile take over by Taylor Bancshares.
- Shoreland Country Club organized by businessmen in 1927 sold to local investors, Shoreland Recreational Cooperative, for nearly $1 million.
- St. Peter dentists, Mark Conover and Greg Engels, build the new Family Dental Center.
- St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church constructs a $600,000 fellowship hall.
- The historic Episcopal Church of Holy Communion, the first building listed in Nicollet County on the National Historic Registry, completes a three-year restoration project.

Note: At least 8 of the Herald's top 10 stories are on the controversial side. I would hope that my selections "bring a bit of heaven" to the people of St. Peter.

member The Cold Spell Of 1936

Many people thought it was cold the first week of January. I am going to take you "Down Memory Lane" to 1936, when ast 17 days of January 234 were below zero and the first 10 days of February were also sub-zero. The coldest of the was 36 below zero.

According to the St. Peter Herald, John Ireland School closed on Tuesday and didn't open until the following Monday. . Davis, superintendent of the public schools, reported that only one-third of the elementary children were in ndance.

I remember the days before heat or electric cords (when we operated the dairy) that my dad would take a corn cob ced in gasoline, light it and put it underneath the oil pan to get the truck started in sub-zero weather. A kerosene heater placed in the rear of the panel to keep the milk from freezing.

In those days, customers would leave their doors open for the milkmen and trusted them to tear off the right amount of oon tickets. During the Christmas season, we were rewarded with cookies, candies, and money from our faithful omers. Dad and my brother Bill would be treated with a Tom and Jerry, but since Bud and I were underage, we could devour the batter from which the drink was made.

On the cold winter mornings many customers besides relatives would say, "Come on in, set your fanny down and have od bowl of hot soup".I remember my dad would give us explicit instructions that when making a delivery, we were ected to dump the ice box pan and let the cat or dog out. But that's where our duties ended. I am sure the postmen, nan and milkmen could tell some interesting stories. However, my personal mental file will go with me to my grave, as it with my late brother Bill.

I remember that on one cold morning in 1936 when I delivered milk to Professor Frogman, an eccentric professor. He asked for my father. When my dad arrived, the professor pulled out his watch and told him if he couldn't make the delivery any earlier he would no longer need dad's service. Dad told the professor that he had several hundred customers on his delivery route and could not deliver the milk any sooner than the route allowed. He then gave the professor the telephone number of his competitor and wished the professor a good day. The professor tried to do a 180-degree flip but no dice.

As luck would have it, I had this same professor for a class. In 1940, I was on the swimming team at Gustavus Adolphus College and we were about to embark on a trip to Wisconsin. I requested an advance assignment from the professor. But, the professor still remembered the encounter with my dad and refused my request. However, I did get the assignment from Dale Thompson, our standout swimmer. (As you might guess, things did not go well with the rest of the course with this professor. I ended up taking the course by correspondence from the University of Iowa that summer.)

On the trip to Wisconsin, our coach, the late "Bump" Gabrielsen, made a point of stopping in Waukesha, Wisconsin, to see an old classmate of his by the name of Kyle Montague, who was practicing law above a bank. Kyle walked "Bump" back to the bus after their visit, looked in the bus and spotted me. I knew him when he courted Doris when she taught at St. Peter High School before their marriage.

Speaking of the late Kyle Montague, I remember when in business he called and asked, "When are you going to fix those damn squeaky brakes? You are waking up the whole damn neighborhood". I informed Kyle that we had the best mechanic in town, by the name of Ben Myhra, working on the problem and besides, a squeaky brake never fails.

When I was with the Chamber for nearly 20 years, I would get a call from Kyle asking if it were true that so-and-so had passed away. He would always end up saying, "We're surely going to miss him or her, a great person". I also remember when I was a kid and we were often requested to visit the deceased, who was usually waked in the parlor of the home. I could never get used to the spouse standing there with us at the foot of the coffin

No wonder we were pallbearers so many times. We were related to or knew everyone in town. Life and death occurred even during the coldest days of the winter.

A Look At Nicollet County Farms In 1909

In 1909, the Minnesota Legislature put a statute on the books whereby people could register their farms at the Courthouse in the County in which they resided for the mere fee of 50 cents.

Today the fee is $9.50. Probably that is why none have been registered since 1970.

Kathy Conlon, Nicollet County Recorder, was kind enough to reach into the archives in the basement of the courthouse to locate the book with the 71 registered names of the farm families starting in 1909.

Many of the Herald readers will recognize the names, as some of the registered names are painted on the farmers' trucks, barns or mail boxes.

The following registered farms and owners are listed in sequential order.
Pine Hill Farm by Ole Peterson.
Cedar Hill Farm by John A. Johnson.
Evergreen Stock Farm by A. H. Quandt.
Pleasant View Farm by Joseph Diepolder.
Sunnyside Farm by Alexander/Elizabeth Russell.
Stony Brook by Andrew Young.
Woodlawn Farm by Fremont C. Pew.
Grandview Stock Farm by Charles Grussendorf.
Oak Grove Farm by Charles L. Wettergren.
Boxelder Farm by Charles R. Poncin.
Westberga by Gustaf E. Bjorklund.

Green Lawn by August Hed.
Lake Prairie Stock Farm by Frank J. Osborne.
Maple Grove Farm by Soren Christopherson.
River View Farm by William Schwartz.
Wintheiser Homestead by Joseph Wintheiser.
Deer Grove Farm by G. M./Frank/Mary Jefferson.
Spring Dale Farm by John Ahlstrom.
White Oak Farm by August Jaster.
Dell View Farm by G. O. Kaupang.
Eagle Point Farm by Charles Norell.
Natural Grove Farm by J. A. Philipp Schoeb.
Shady Brook Farm by J.A.
Apple Hill Farm by Peter Schmidt.
Timber View Dairy Farm by John/Mary Galles.
Oak Ravine Farm by Henry Simmet.
Edgewood Farm by James Bigger.
Swan Lake Farm by Ferdinand Crone.
Evergreen Farm by Henry Schrader.
Hilltop Dairy Farm by Joseph H. Traurig.
Oakland Stock Farm by Jens Annexstad.
Meadow Lawn Farm by J. M. Turner.
Sunnyside Stock Farm by W. W. Nelson.
North Mankato Stock and Poultry Farm by Henry C. Small.
Greenwood Farm by August A. Malmberg.
Hillsdale Farm by John A. Holmquist.
Green Lane Farm by P. J. Johnson.
Cherry Grove Farm by Charles/Ada F. Louchs.
Oak Park Stock Farm by Christian H. Hanson.
Pioneer Stock Farm by William Powers.
Oakridge Farm by Joseph S. Nelson.
High Oak Farm by Robert E. Lambert.
Fairview Stock Farm by Friedrich J. Kranz.
Distant View Farm by Ole H. Hermanson.
Walnut Dale Farm by W. H./A. E. Turner
Clover Dale Farm by Gustaf A. Anderson.
Pleasant View Stock Farm by C. A. Johnson.
Peep-O-Day Farm by Martin Theodor Annexstad.
Lafayette Stock Farm by John G. Huelskamp.
Shady Dell Stock Farm by Arthur Norell.
Shady Brook Farm by H. A. Hanson.
Fair Oaks by Daniel Gilbertson.
Empire Stock Farm by William Schmidt.
Shady Grove Farm by Michael Lokensgaard.
Lake Hill Farm by Ole Olson.
Meadow View Farm by John Annexstad.
Glen View Farm by Robert Ellis Grice.
Eastview Stock Farm by Edward Slatum.
Silver Creek Stock and Poultry Farm by Earl Hayer.
Orchard Grove Farm by Carl O. Jacobson.
Riverside Dairy Farm by Henry Simmet.
Lake Park Farm by Martin Theodor Annexstad (previous listing of Peep-O-Day Farm revoked and canceled.)
Oakland Gurnsey Farm by Henry Simmet (Riverside Dairy Farm revoked and cancelled).
Oak Dale Farm by Albert Schlumpberger.

Note: All the above were registered by Peter Fay, Register of Deeds (father of Kay Fay Witte).

Hillcrest Farms by Joseph T. Johnson.
Oak Lawn Farm by Henry H. Hanson.

Twin Elm Stock Farm by Lee J. Osborne.
Oak View Farm by Fred C. Hanson.
Karstad Farm by Raymond C. Karstad.

Note: The last five registrations were by Edwin Lindberg (Rose Mary Gustafson's father).

Elm Haven by Alton Mattson.
Brandlane Acres by Francis W. Brandel.

**Note: The last two registrations by Lorna Holmquist, who succeded Eddie Lindberg as Register of Deeds.*

There have been no registrations since 1970.

Many farm families have adopted names for their farms but are not registered. The purpose of registration of farms is to prevent duplication.

While viewing the registration of names, Herb Poncin walked in and told me that his grandfather registered their farm back in 1909.

What a coincidence. It was on the same page as my grandfather's.

By the way, the registration book has a lot of room for registrations as officially there are only 71 registered names.

Old Railroad Depot Triggers Memories Lost

A few weeks ago, Bonnie Fischer Fjelstad, in a letter to the editor of the Herald, requested that I research the party who lived just west of the depot which she and her father, Willmar, would visit when Willmar picked up the railway express at the Omaha depot.

With the help of Ted Moline, railroad man for 44 years, Clifford "Tishy" Drenttel, and Mary Ellen Maas Menk, I came up with the following information.

The family that Bonnie was referring to was that of Fred and Mary Tetzloff. They had 14 children. Enza Tetzloff Hagberg is the only survivor and lives presently at Park View Manor, across the street from Minnesota Square (Swede) Park.

The person who was an invalid and in a wheelchair was "Tony."

Fred Tetzloff was a former railroad man for many years. He and Mary were the grandparents of Bob, Janet (Leverson), Clifford (Tishy) and Mary (Krekelberg) Drenttel. Their mother was Clara (Pat), the daughter of Fred and Mary Tetzloff.

The Tetzloffs sold the house west of the depot to Art and Dorothy Maas, the parents of Mary Ellen Menk, Dick, Bob and Paul, in 1945. According to Mary Ellen, the house disappeared down the Minnesota River during the flood of 1965.

Willmar, by the way, worked for former mayor of St. Peter, Henry Wiest, who was in the railway express and produce business. Later, Willmar became a custodian at the high school, where he was popular with the student population owing to the fact that he was a kid once himself.

The Fischer family, Willmar, his wife Mabel, and Bonnie, lived on the second floor of the Bornemann building.

The first floor was Rube Seibert's Central Meat Market with Adolph Bornemann's Machine Shop in the rear.

The third floor of the building was where the Improved Order of the Red Men, Ottawa Tribe #49 and the Osceola Council #30 Pocahontas held their meetings.

The Fischers moved to a green house on Third Street just south of Veith's Bakery. The Fischer property was sold to the Nicollet County Bank for their expansion. The Red Men and Pocahontas purchased part of the Konsbruck Hotel for their meeting rooms and bar when they left the Bornemann building.

By the way, Larry Dry purchased the Bornemann building for his drug store. When Larry passed away, Ken O'Dell ated the drug store until accepting a position with the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Co. Later "Gump" Lyons ated an on sale liquor establishment there.

Today, Willy Walter operates what is known as Willy's Hometown Tavern out of the building.

e-Room Schoolhouse In Traverse

With the assistance of Ione Johnson Hokanson, whose husband managed the National Tea Store (No Frills) over 55 s ago, and Cecelia Wolfe, I will take you to Traverse School District #3 as Ione wrote about it in the Peterson, Iowa kly paper.

The school was located on the corner of highways 15 and 19, just north of where the John Westman family lived and re the Don and Ruth Wenner farm is now.

The original school burned to the ground in about 1910. The students didn't get a break, as classes were temporarily in the old Traverse Town Hall. When the school was closed, the schoolhouse was moved to the east of Front Street, ss the street from the courthouse parking log.

Ione mentioned some of the families of students that she went to school with. The Westmans, Gilbert Gilbertsons, hts, Hills, Archie Parsons, Durlands (Hazel Witty), Norma Pell, Margaret Schmidt, John Pehrsons, Alfred Lunds, Triplett , John Andersons, Hergerts, Pehrsons, Phil and Andrew Wolfe families, Baumbergers, and Wettergrens.

The teachers included Lillien Cox, daughter of Judge E. Julien, Miss Johns, Ella Tammany Weber, Madeline Poncin, and Ritt Baker.

I remember Lillien Cox Gault telling me that when she taught school at Traverse, she would take the daily train. Other s she would walk the tracks. She always kept a can of pepper on her to keep the wolves away. She says a wolf finally her when she married Pierce Wolfe after the passing of her husband, A. K. Gault.

To describe the setting of the school, Ione mentioned the girls' and boys' outdoor "biffs" with a small stable in between ne students who rode or drove a pony as she did.

Every day there was a fresh pail of water with a common dipper. What water the students didn't drink went into a basin vashing of the hands after coming in from the outside trip.

In the wintertime the teachers usually stayed at the nearby John Westman farm. Ione recalled that it was so cold that of the students stayed in the basement most of the morning where they had spelling bees and arithmetic.

The teachers in those days were responsible for the building of the fire along with the disposition of the ashes.

Ione remembers when Albin Anderson stayed at her folks' place, Art and Edna Johnson's, before his marriage to Hulga. would teach Albin English while he would teach her Swedish. The Johnsons lived on the farm now owned by Ruth Gov. John A. Johnson was born on the back 40 on the Enz farm in Traverse Township.

Ione, after leaving Traverse School, graduated from Good Counsel, Mankato, where she was the only non-Catholic at ime.

People in the Peterson area wanted to know if Ione furthered her education at Gustavus Adolphus College. Her reply that she got her education behind the counter at the National Tea store that led to a successful implement business in rson.

Cecilia Wolfe mentioned that all seven of the Andrew Wolfe children received their education at District #3, Bob, Russell ter) Clayton, Donald Earl (Red), Johnny, Ethel Faust (Bob's mother) and Mary Fischer.

Red took over the home place and later purchased the 20-acre Ole Thompson farm. Red's farm was known as the "strawberry farm" as he grew strawberries, raspberries, and raised chickens. Red later had Grampa's popcorn wagon for a number of years.

On a personal note, I remember my mother telling of teaching at District #23, Oshawa, by Schuck's North Star Store. At the end of the year she received a bonus of $10. She believed in "free agency," like the ball players, which led her to sign a contract at District #65, New Sweden, for $10 per month more.

Chester Abrahamson, now 100, and his wife Thea reminded me that she was worth every cent the board paid her.

As Spring Comes, Thoughts Turn To Green, Grassy Field And Baseball

by Ed Lee *St Peter Herald*

To pinch-hit for Ceil Headlee at the Herald is like pinch-hitting for Kirby Puckett of the Twins. Here's praying for the recovery of the transplant from Jersey City, N. J., whom I call the "Joisey City Kid" because of her Bronx accent.

When I heard about the passing of Charlie O. Finley, former owner of the Oakland A's, I couldn't help but think of the story Tom Bolstad and I heard about how he fired his manager Hank Bauer.

Hank came onto the field in a fresh clean uniform. Charlie called Hank over to his private box in Oakland and said, "Hank, you got a grass stain on the seat of your pants." (Which meant go in and take your uniform off--you're done.)

Hank, a former Army Sgt. in World War II, replied, "Mr. Finley, that's not a grass stain--it's mistletoe." Needless to say, Hank was hired and fired by Finley a second time, while Finley was owner of the A's.

When reading the letter to the editor by Bill Nelsen (president of the newly-former Shoreland Recreational Co-op), I researched the Herald Diamond Jubilee and learned that the Shoreland Country Club was organized in 1926 and chartered i 1927.

Recently I had several of the directors and committee chairmen on my radio and TV show. I learned that Ralph Derner is chairman of the So-o-o-cial Committee. He took up pasture pool at the age of 42. He was reluctant to disclose his score on TV.

Be sure and attend the Pancake breakfast for the annual All Night Graduation Party on Sunday, March 10, from 8 a.m.--1 p.m. The St. Peter Masons will sponsor the event. Parents and students will sell the tickets and serve the meal.

Congratulations to the members of the St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church on building a new $750,000 Fellowship Hall. The late Rev. Theo. Albrecht, pastor of the congregation for over 40 years, would have been mighty proud of the project.

When I read the article about banks in the last issue of the Herald, I couldn't help but think of the plans to rob the Citizens State Bank in the early 1920s.

Word came down from the Twin Cities that the bank was to be robbed late that afternoon. Police Chief Jim Meyer, who was the best shot on Swan Lake, planned a strategy of placing himself above the Herald, as the bank was located where Bjorling's Swedish Kontur is now located.

Meyer was supplied with a pair of binoculars and his sturdy rifle. The signal for the departure of the so-called robbers was to pull the shade in front of the bank up and down.

Although the robbery never took place, they did find the plans on one of the robbers who was apprehended later in the Twin Cities.

he Citizens State Bank went under in 1924 on a bad land investment in Montana.

id you hear about the little girl who couldn't sleep? At three o'clock in the morning she crawled in with her mother aid, "Mommy tell me a story." Her mother replied, "Wait until your father comes home and we'll both hear a good ".

nembering Harold Overn

his past week Harold Overn, a pillar of strength and wisdom, went to his great reward. Harold was not only a cated family man, but was loyal to his church and fraternal organizations.

le was the oldest member of the Improved Order of the Red Men, Ottawa Tribe #49, being a member for 81 years. He he oldest member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, having joined 79 years ago. He joined the Masonic e over 50 years ago.

Vhen the Community Hospital Board was named in 1929, Harold was on it. Many of us remember Harold selling lstand tickets at the Nicollet County Fair until his retirement, when son Larry took over. I am sure Harold credits plenty efisk for his good health.

his past week Wade Pehrson, captain of the Augsburg wrestling team, won the 158 MIAC division. His team won event but one. Wade was ranked #1 in Division III for his weight. He is the son of Richard and Nancy Pehrson. He ne owes his success to high school coach Craig Drager and his granddad, Franklin (Shorty) Pehrson who coached youth ling. "Shorty" in his day was a great center fielder for the Traverse baseball team.

ongrats to B. Jeanette (Jean) Larson on her 80th birthday. A scholarship at Gustavus Adolphus has been set up in her . Jean is a link between Town and Gown.

letter of thanks came from Bonnie Fischer Fjelstad for the information she sought.

received a letter from Leota Myhra (Ben's wife) telling me that she and Ben operated the Strands Boxcar Tavern at one She later worked for my brother Bill at the Minnesota School Boards Association, when they were first located in St. in 1952.

lere's wishing Ceil a speedy recovery.

at Basketball Teams Abound In History

he St. Peter basketball fans were treated to a great basketball year. The high school girls' and boys' varsity teams' d speaks for itself. The ninth-grade girls won the ninth-grade Class A title. Many records were broken by the Golden es basketball team.

lowever, there is one record that will stand forever in basketball and that is when Gustavus defeated St. John's at geville in the mid 1920's.

ccording to Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth's book, "Gustavus Athletics," Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg scored all the Gustavus s against St. John's. In those days the team could designate one player to shoot all the free throws. Tuddie was hot; he d all the Gustavus points.

ears later when Tuddie was coach of the Gusties and playing at St. John's, a priest took Tuddie to the top floor of the . John's gym and showed him where a student had carved into the rafter, Lindenberg 27, St. John's 20. The feat made rt Ripley's "Believe It or Not." Records are made to be broken, but Tuddie's record will stand forever.

I remember when Tom Bolstad and I visited Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame and viewed Lou Gehrig's plaque which read, "Lou played in 2,130 consecutive games, a record that will stand for all time." Last August, Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Gehrig's record.

In the late 1920s, Rube Youngdahl, a Gustavus Hall of Famer, roomed at my grandparents' house on Washington Avenue, across from the Community Center.

Rube would open the bottom half of the upstairs window to practice his free-throwing. His roommate would catch the ball and toss it down to Rube.

My grandmother warned Rube if he broke the window, not only would he have to replace it, but also install the new one.

Sure enough the inevitable happened. Rube became pastor of Mount Olivet Church, Minneapolis, the largest Lutheran church in America.

Years later when Rube was the speaker for Tuddie Lindberg's champion Gusties in 1945, I asked Rube if he remembered rooming at my grandparents. He said, "How could I forget? Your grandmother prepared the best Lutefisk I ever ett".

With the state boy's basketball tourney in full swing, many old-timers remember when the fabulous Gaylord team in 1926 beat Gilbert 13-9 for the state championship. Gaylord closed the town and the fans took a train to Chicago where Gaylord ended up in the semi-finals of the national tournament.

The other day I was talking to "Whitey" Skoog, when the subject came up about the Boston Celtics visitors' dressing room. Tom Bolstad and I toured the Boston Garden a couple of times and got into the visitors' dressing room.

Whitey said that it was "kind of cramped". Tom and I came to the conclusion that the John Ireland School dressing room was paradise compared with Boston Garden's.

The old Boston Garden has been demolished and replaced with a new Garden to the rear. There is something about dressing rooms in pro sports that I enjoy.

Tom and I had the opportunity to visit the visitors' and Twins' dressing room at the old Met Stadium several times. We also visited the dressing room at the Metrodome before the dome was officially opened. I guess one envies the players.

Speaking of Tuddie, according to "Holly's" book, the Gustavus basketball team was coming home from an away game in the dead of winter when the car stalled.

Coach Lindenberg, a great outdoorsman, insisted that the players stay with the car and take turns sleeping on each other to keep from freezing to death.

In 1975, I was lucky to have my friend the late Halsey Hall, speak at our Chamber banquet. Halsey, who officiated many of the high school and Gustavus football and basketball games in his day, wrote a poem about the Wittes, Lurths, Stocktons, and Tuddie Lindenberg.

The Gustavus and high school teams in the play-off games reminded me of the days when the fans would fill the old gym (now part of the student union) and Myrum Field House to capacity.

If someone asked me about the greatest basket I ever saw, I would have to say, even though the Saints lost in two overtimes to Jordan, it was Brent Olson's three-pointer when the buzzer went off while the ball was in the air to tie the game.

I would like to suggest that Peggy Palmer from the Herald and Sherry Fischer, administrator at Grandview, who hail from Pemberton work with the Janesville-Waldorf Pemberton team on how to shoot free throws.

Although, the team won the first game, they lost the second game to Fertile-Beltrami, the hometown of Jim Jacobs, in second round of the state tourney as they made just under half of their free throws.

While visiting with Willard Bjorklund, I learned that the Bjorklund farm in New Sweden is called "Smoland" farm. ned after the province Smoland, Sweden, where the Bjorklunds hail from.

The Robert Bjorklund family is the fourth generation on the "Smoland" farm.

m my old files

During the great depression that started in October of 1929, someone compiled the following verse:

Herbie Hoover blew the whistle,
Andy Mellon rang the bell,
Wall Street gave the signal,
And the country went to /?!.*

oman Breaks Tradition In Politics And Hats

On April 8, 1921, the St. Peter Herald headline read, "St. Peter voters elect woman vor: Mrs. A. K. Gault victorious at polls by majority of 29". She was not only the first man mayor of St. Peter, but also of the entire state of Minnesota. She was elected 56 rs after her father, E. Julien Cox, became the first mayor of St. Peter

This was not the only tradition that Lillien broke over the years. When she threw hat in the ring for the mayorship, she became the first woman in history of the irch of the Holy Communion to go hatless.

The tradition of women covering their heads in church, according to my friend, the . Maurice Swenson, has biblical underpinnings. Maurice cites 1 Corinthians 11:4-10. ggest that you look up the passage for yourself.

This past Easter Sunday when I was in church, I couldn't help but reminisce about rs past and the unusual hats worn to Easter Sunday services by some of the ladies.

Lillien Cox Gault
Elected Mayor of St. Peter 1922.
First woman mayor in Minnesota.
Candidate for U.S. Congress.

The Cox House on Washinton Avenue.

Irene Cox Buell, Lillien's sister, sat in the front pew with a broad-brimmed hat. She reminded me of Majorie Main in the Pa and Ma Kettle movies.

Pearl Weisgerber from the Herald, mother to Jim and Dick, and the organist at the church, remarked that Irene was the only person she knew who could listen to a sermon and read the Sunday paper at the same time.

Isabel Poetz wore the same hat for at least 50 years, I am sure. Ruth Dick, Mrs. George (Cusie) Nutter, Florence Daniels, and Edith Miller (Irene Miller Dahl's mother), could be expected to wear a new hat about every five years.

Irene Gault, Sam's aunt who taught music in the state of New York, would attend church with a hat always purchased on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Norma MacKenzie always had taste for good hats. Verna Pell, Bill's mother, wore a small hat on the back of her beautiful, wavy hair. I wonder how Bill would look with wavy hair.

My mother had a craving for hats. She bought most of them from her schoolmate, Gracie Bowden, who owned a millinery shop on Main Street. When mother passed away, we asked Rob Gardner, director of arts at Gustavus, to send students down in a van to pick up her collection of hats. Many of them now can be recognized in plays at the college.

Gretchen Waldo, a parishioner who is noted for her beautiful hats, has a different hat for each Sunday.

Of all the ladies mentioned, no one could match the late Marge Schmidt when it came to selecting and wearing hats. Sh was in a class by herself. Marge's hats were on display at her memorial service. Her children, Roger and "Mitzi", showed her prize ones on a tripod in the church.

Lillien Cox Gault passed away at the ripe old age of 99, but her legacy in city and church politics will live forever.

The Humble Start Of Redevelopment

The St. Peter Housing and Redevelopment Authority had its beginning about 25 years ago, when then mayor of St. Peter, George Martens, appointed a commission consisting of Ralph Schroeder, chairman; Clarence H. Johnson; Alden Witte, Ernie Heilman; M. P. Omodt; and Owen Bailey, house manager.

The commission was responsible for the building of Parkview Manor, also called "the High Rise", located across the street from Minnesota Square Park. I remember being at the groundbreaking ceremonies as an alderman of the city, along with the rest of the city council that included chairman of the council Mel Lurth; Paul Vetter, Jr.; Ellery Peterson; Burt Hoffman; Leighton Swenson; Mayor George Martens; the Commission, and other dignitaries. Residents moved into Parkview Manor in January 1971.

The first wise move the commission made was purchasing the land where the First Lutheran Church once stood before being destroyed by fire when lightning hit the church on May 23, 1962. The church, under the auspices of the Rev. J. Millard Ahlstrom, voted to build a new church at the corner of Traverse Road and Sunrise Drive. The pastor's parsonage was moved to 312 South Seventh Street to replace the historic Governor Austin's house, later owned by the Sackett/E. E. Miller families before it was also destroyed by fire. (Speaking of Pastor Ahlstrom, while at Gustavus he would frequently attend services of Holy Communion. He said he not only enjoyed the music by the organist, Julie Mae Strathern, but occasionally her companionship as well. The pastor still stops at the church occasionally for prayer and meditation on his visits to St. Peter.)

According to the St. Peter Herald, the cost of the seven-story, 70-apartment building was $1,053,000. Today, the building's cost would be $3,000,000. The building, located across from the historic 10.5-acre Minnesota Square Park, was envisioned to be the location for the capital of Minnesota in 1858 until Joe Rolette stole the bill that would have made St. Peter the new capital.

The residents of Parkview in the east apartments can view the children playing in the park during the day. At night, the residents, if not sleeping, can see high school and Gustavus students frolicking in the park. Seeing the students in the park surely beings back many memories for the residents.

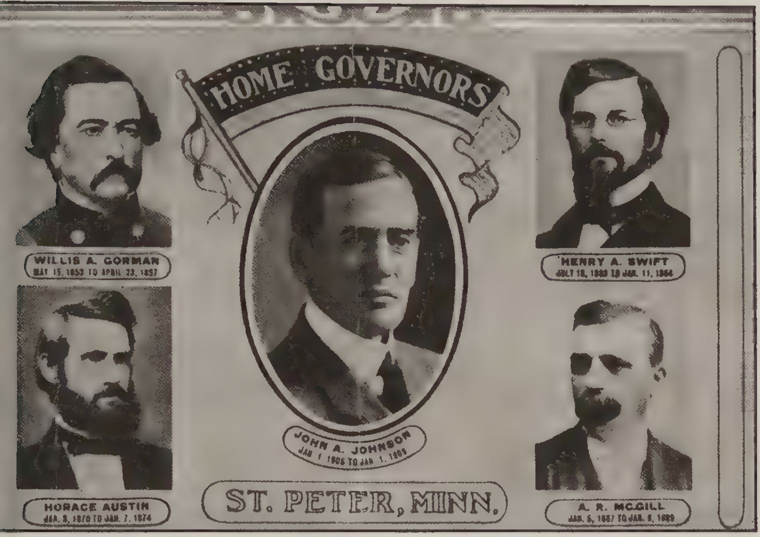
The rent for the apartments is based on 30 percent of the resident's income. Congregate meals are available not only for the residents, but also for anyone over the age of 55, for a nominal fee, by making a reservation a day in advance.

The present Housing Commission is comprised of the following: John Elbert, chairman; Ed Wetherill, Jean Rolstad, Warren Michels and Sylvester Sauer. The Parkview Manor's Executive House Manager is Shannon Lloyd. Alan Oachs is the maintenance supervisor for the building.

On Sunday, May 5, 1996, the public will have an opportunity to view Parkview Manor at an open house from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

I am sure that the residents of Parkview for the past 25 years have found "a little bit of heaven in St. Peter" because of the foresight of the city fathers and the Parkview Manor Commissioners.

te Capitols And Governors Have St. Peter Connections


HOME GOVERNORS
WILLIS A. GORMAN
MAY 15, 1853 TO APRIL 23, 1857
HENRY A. SWIFT
JULY 10, 1863 TO JAN. 11, 1864
JOHN A. JOHNSON
JAN 1 1905 TO JAN 1, 1909
HORACE AUSTIN
JAN. 8, 1870 TO JAN. 7, 1874
ST. PETER, MINN.
A. R. MCGILL
JAN. 5, 1887 TO JAN. 5, 1889

St. Peter's five governors served in the three state capitols. Several stories have recently been written about the capitol's architect, Cass Gilbert, and mural painter, F. D. Millet, but very little has been about the St. Peter's five governors who occupied the state capitols.

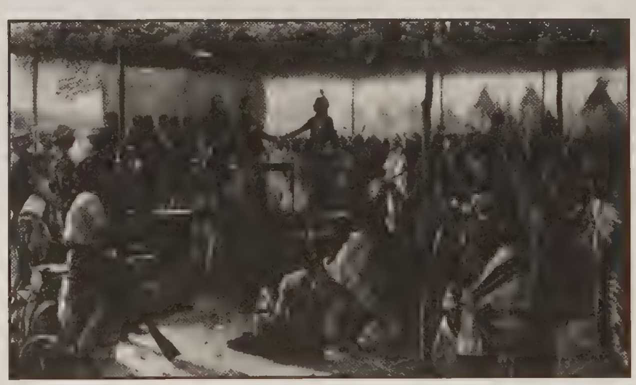
Territorial Governor, Willis A. Gorman, 1853-1857, was the first St. Peter governor to occupy the first capitol built in 1853. The St. Peter Company's attempt to move the capitol to St. Peter in 1858 was spoiled when legislator "Jolly" Joe Rolette, stole the bill that would have made St. Peter the State capitol.

Governors Henry A. Swift, 1863 - 1864, and Horace Austin, 1870-1874, were the next two governors from St. Peter to occupy the first capitol. n the capitol burned in 1881, the second capitol was erected in 1883. Andrew R. McGill, a newspaperman before oming governor, served from 1887-89 in the second capitol.

Since the second capitol was found to be inadequate, ground was broken for the present capitol on May 6, 1896. John hnson, another newspaperman from St. Peter and the most famous of all governors, was the first Minnesota-born rnor and the first governor to occupy the present capitol on January 2, 1905. Governor Johnson served in office from - 1909.

The Kasota stone used in the capitol building was quarried in nearby Kasota, a few miles south of St. Peter.

The signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux took place one north of St. Peter. A mural by painter F. D. Millet depicts the ng of the treaty. It is painted on the wall of the reception room to the governor's private office.



The signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.

At the time, the approach to St. Peter had a sign, which read, eter: Home of Five Governors"! Below it another sign read, eter Has Natural Gas"! These signs drew the attention of itaries throughout the world when visiting Gustavus Adolphus ege.

seball: How Many Do You Know?

Here are the nicknames of baseball players and managers who played in the World Series from 1903-1979. How many names do you know?

"Georgia Peach"____________________
"Red"____________________
"Joltin' Joe"____________________
"IronHorse"____________________
"Mickey"____________________
"Kiki"____________________
"Rip"____________________
"Chief"____________________

"Nellie"____________________
"Big Train"____________________
"Cat Fish"____________________
"Leo the Lip"____________________
"Shoeless Joe"____________________
"Sad Sam"____________________
"King Kong"____________________
"Cookie"____________________
"Goose"____________________
"Wild Bill"____________________
"Sunny Jim"____________________
"Schoolboy"____________________
"Dizzy"____________________
"Daffy"____________________
"Dazzy"____________________
"Billy the Kid"____________________
"Slats"____________________
"Pepper"____________________
"Country"____________________
"Ducky"____________________
"Boog"____________________
"King of Swat"____________________
"Pee Wee"____________________
"Scooter"____________________
"Moose"____________________
"Fordham Flash"____________________
"Muddy"____________________
"Schnoozle"____________________
"Eddie the Brat"____________________
"Sandy"____________________
"Babe"____________________
"Push 'em up Tony"____________________
"Harry the Hat"____________________
"Goofy"____________________
"Bo Bo"____________________
"Snuffy"____________________
"Duke"____________________
"Home Run"____________________
"Preacher"____________________
"Dusty"____________________
"Bonehead"____________________
"Smokey Joe"____________________
"Sunny Boy"____________________
"Little Poison"____________________
"Big Poison"____________________
"Gabby"____________________
"Campy"____________________
"Rosy"____________________
"Heinie"____________________
"Rabbit"____________________
"Junior"____________________
"Tex"____________________
"Sparky"____________________
"Pete"____________________

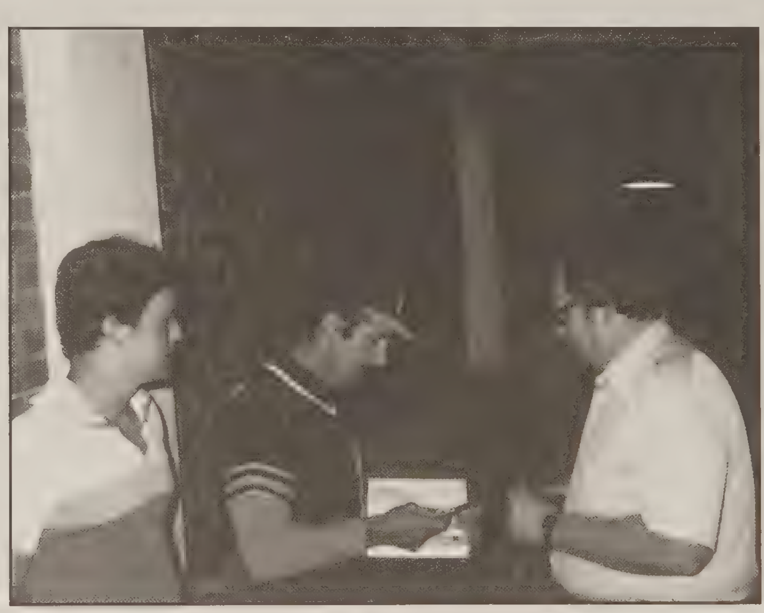
Clarence & Edna Wettergren family
From Left: Bill, Bud, Bob, Beverly, Anita

"Smokey"
"Mr. October"
"Flyin' Dutchman"
"Pie"
"Blondy"
"Jo Jo"
"Bump"
"Buckey"
"Harry the Cat"
"Grover"

seball: How Many Do You Know? (part 2)

Here are additional nicknames of baseball players and managers who played in the World Series from 1903-1979. How y last names do you know?

"Yogi"
"Arky"
"Flash"
"Bobby"
"Rusty"
"Blue Moon"
"Three Finger"
"Bullet Joe"
"Old Goldenrod"
"Satchel"
"Dutch"
"Stan the Man"
"Mudcat"
"Hammerin' Hank"
"Casey"
"Woody"
"Sal the Barber"
"Sudden Sam"
"Fireman Johnny"
"Rooster"
"Yaz"
"Popeye"
"Doc"
"Chick"
"Spud"
"Rapid Robert"
"Connie Mack's" real name



L-R: Robert Wettergren, Jr., Billy Martin and Tom Bolstad

How Many Baseball Players Do You Know?

Answers to Parts 1 and 2

Here are answers to the baseball quiz. Keep in mind that many players may have the same nickname.

"Georgia Peach"	Ty Cobb
"Red"	Ruffing-Red Schoendienst
"Joltin' Joe"	DiMaggio
"IronHorse"	Lou Gehrig
"Mickey Mantle"	Cochran Rivers
"Kiki"	Cuyler
"Rip"	Collins
"Chief"	Bender-Reynolds
"Nellie"	Fox
"Big Train"	Walter Johnson
"Cat Fish"	Hunter
"Leo the Lip"	Durocher
"Shoeless Joe"	Jackson
"Sad Sam"	Jones
"King Kong"	Keller
"Cookie"	Lavagetto
"Goose"	Goslin, Gossage
"Wild Bill"	Hallahan
"Sunny Jim"	Bottomley
"Schoolboy"	Rowe
"Dizzy"	Dean
"Daffy"	Dean
"Dazzy"	Vance
"Billy the Kid"	Martin
"Slats"	Marion
"Pepper"	Martin
"Country"	Slaughter
"Ducky"	Medwick
"Boog"	Powell
"King of Swat"	Ruth
"Pee Wee"	Reese
"Scooter"	Rizzuto
"Schnoozle"	Lombardi
"Eddie the Brat"	Stanky
"Sandy"	Koufax
"Babe"	George Herman Ruth
"Push 'm up Tony"	Lazzeri
"Harry the Hat"	Walker
"Goofy"	Gomez
"BoBo"	Newsom
"Snuffy"	Sternwiess
"Duke"	Snider
"Home Run"	Baker
"Preacher"	Roe
"Dusty"	Rhodes
"Bonehead"	Merkle
"Smokey Joe"	Wood
"Sunny Boy"	Hack Wilson
"Little Poison"	Lloyd Waner

“Big Poison”	Paul Waner
“Gabby”	Hartnett
“Campy”	Campanella, Campaneris
“Rosy”	Ryan
“Heinie”	Manush
“Rabbit”	Maranville
“Junior”	Gilliam
“Tex”	Carleton
“Sparky”	Anderson, Lyle
“Pete”	Rose
“Smokey”	Burgess
“Mr. October”	Reggie Jackson
“Flyin’ Dutchman”	Wagner
“Pie”	Traynor
“Blondy”	Ryan
“Jo Jo”	White
“Bump”	Wills, Hadley
“Buckey”	Walter, Dent, Harris
“Harry the Cat”	Breechen
“Grover”	Alexander
“Fireman”	Murphy
“Yogi”	Berra
“Arky”	Vaughan
“Flash”	Gordon
“Bobby”	Thomson
“Rusty”	Staub
“Blue Moon”	Odom
“Three Finger”	Brown
“Bullet Joe”	Bush
“Old Goldenrod”	Gowdy
“Satchel”	Paige
“Dutch”	Leonard
“Stan the Man”	Musial
“Mud Cat”	Grant
“Pepper”	Martin
“Hammerin’ Hank”	Aaron
“Casey”	Stengel
“Woody”	English
“Sal the Barber”	Maglie
“Sudden Sam”	McDowel
“Fireman”	Murphy
“Rooster”	Burleson
“Connie Mack”	Cornelius McGuillicudey
“Yaz”	Yazstremski
“Popeye”	Zimmer
“Doc”	Crandall
“Chick”	Hafey
“Spud”	Chandler
“Rapid Robert”	Feller

**Writer's Note on the nicknames: Milt Nielsen, former Cleveland Indians player who played with several of the players ntioned above, missed the names of only four players.*

. Several readers have requested the poem "Casey at the Bat." The last verse is printed below. The picture of myself with sculpture of "Casey" was taken at the Cooperstown Hall of Fame. Stop by the Herald office for a copy of the entire m.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,
But there is no joy in Mudville,–mighty Casey has struck out.

Ten Commandments Of Baseball

by Joe McCarthy, manager of the world champion New York Yankees

1. Nobody ever became a ball player by walking after a ball.
2. You'll never become a .300 hitter with the bat on your shoulders.
3. An outfielder who throws back of a runner is locking the barn door after the horse is stolen.
4. Keep your head up and you may not have to keep it down.
5. When you start to do a slide, S-L-I-D-E. He who changes his mind may have to exchange a good leg for a bad or
6. Do not alibi on bad hops. Anybody can field the good ones.
7. Always run them out. You can never tell.
8. Do not quit.
9. Do not find too much fault with the umpires. You cannot expect them to be as perfect as you are.
10. A pitcher who hasn't control hasn't anything.

Invitation A Sign St. Paul, St. Peter Brothers Again

By: Gareth Hiebert/Oliver Towne

St. Paul Mayor George Latimer is going to St. Peter this month to mend a fence that has been broken for a 127 years.

That was the time, in 1857, when Joe Rolette, son of a French-Canadian fur trader, a man of robust humor who loved dress like an Indian or voyageur, stole the bill the Territorial Legislature had approved that would have moved the capital the pending new state of Minnesota from St. Paul to St. Peter.

The Rift, if no anger and disappointment, that followed has been a bone of contention all these years.

Until now, no St. Paul official has ever been invited to appear or speak in St. Peter. Latimer will be the first. He will speak to the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting Jan. 31.

This proferring of the olive branch was done through the good offices of Bob Wettergren, the St. Peter area group's longtime manager, a descendant of a pioneer St. Peter family and affectionately known as "Mr. St. Peter".

He and I have formed a warm friendship over the years that have transcended this official cleavage between the two cities. And so when I heard about Latimer's mission, I got in touch with Wettergren.

He readily took the credit, or blame ("who knows how much deep-seated animosity will manifest itself that evening from die-hards?" for this attempt at burying the hatchet or as such loyal St. Peterites as historian Marjorie Schmidt put it: "forgive a sinner and right a wrong).

Wettergren says that he got his brainstorm during a conversation at the last of five area Swedish-Norwegian lutefisk church dinners he attended during the Christmas season.

"This one was at the Scandian Grove Swedish Lutheran Church," he says, "and food and conviviality like that wash warm waves of euphoria and feelings of peace and good will over everybody. I mentioned I was looking for a speaker at our annual dinner, and someone suggested Mayor Latimer and said it was time we let bygones be bygones."

Wettergren agrees, of course that the loss of the capital for St. Peter may not have been all Joe Rolette's fault. He could ve been merely the agent in a plot, hatched by a group of patriotic friends, a slightly brash, political and civic faction dicated to saving the capital for St. Paul.

The story of course is that a vast majority of the territorial legislators from the rural area decided that when it came time statehood, the capital certainly shouldn't be located in St. Paul. It has a poor location, so far east, so far from the western d northern boundaries of the state. A number of sites were proposed. One, even more logical, was piece of land near ndiyohi, ideally situated in the center of the state.

But St. Peter got a bigger vote.

The bill was adopted and was on its way to the governor when it reached Rolette, a legislator from Pembina (now in rth Dakota). Rolette was chairman of the enrollment committee, and was supposed to give it his imprimatur and pass it ng to the governor.

There are several versions of what happened next. Ramsey County historian Virginia Brainard Kunz, in her research, has cided that Rolette pocketed the bill, walked over to Truman and Smith's bank and locked it in a vault. Then he switched eels and went into hiding until the session ended.

One story is that Rolette appeared dramatically at the last moment, flashing the bill, knowing it was too late for the vernor's signature.

When he appeared at the last moment, in dramatic fashion, it was too late to get any more bills signed. Later efforts to tend that diabolical practical joke, if it was one, was to no avail. Whether Joe acted alone, venting his strange sense of mor, or acted in concert with others is not clear.

Poor St. Peter. It had created wide avenues and prepared fine, sturdy buildings, including a potential capitol building. It med its main street Minnesota Avenue.

It was prepared to welcome the prosperity and growth of a state capital town. Instead, it got the Nicollet County urthouse and jail.

Nothing ever came of future attempts to move the capital.

But to borrow an old saying, St. Peterites seemed to believe that if you can't move the mountain, you can send hammed to it. St. Peter managed to provide Minnesota with five governors – Willis Gorman, Henry Swift, Horace Austin, drew McGill and John A. Johnson.

Rolette lived out his years and is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Prairie du Chein, Wis. He is enshrined with an oil rtrait in full voyageur's regalia hanging on the landing between the foyer and first floor of the Minnesota Club, where nual toasts are drunk by the St. Paul loyalists to his dubious courage, guile and audacity.

Wettergren says that Mayor Latimer has assured him he is bringing felicitations, greetings and perhaps even a few stcards of the City Hall Indian God of Peace, appropriately, to the chamber meeting.

"We're going to give him every chance to establish d'tente," say Wettergren. "I've invited him to tell the St. Paul version what happened on my TV show; there will be a big reception in the American Legion Club and then the dinner in the W Hall. This is a night when we play no favorites."

One thing bothers Wettergren a bit.

"George and Joe look a lot alike, he says. "Put a voyageur's outfit on George and you'd think Joe Rolette had been ncarnated."

Mayor Latimer Helps St. Peter Forgive St. Paul

By: Gareth Hiebert/Oliver Towne

The ghost of Joe Rolette, who saved (stole) the capitol for St. Paul 127 years ago, was jocularly, but firmly buried here the other night by a bearded prophet and peacemaker, the mellow mayor of St. Paul.

"I come with guilt in my heart to atone for the sins of the man who pocketed the bill that would have given your grea city the role that mine now enjoys," George Latimer told more that 200 disciples of St. Peter at the annual St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce dinner last week.

It was a historic occasion. It was the first time since the Rolette incident that an official from St. Paul had been invited even permitted, to appear in public.

"Had Rolette not perpetrated his dastardly deed, I might well be your mayor and be raising my family here," he told a cheering throng filled with forgiveness, but not forgetfulness, as chamber president Ken Lundberg put it.

"And I might enjoy it more," Latimer said, beaming at Anita Grue, city council member and the next chamber presiden "I understand you have two more just like her on the council."

"I'm glad Rolette stole the bill," whispered St. Peter's Mayor Doug Pyan. "This guy would be hard to beat."

"We will never forget how someone robbed Peter to pay Paul," said chamber president Lundberg.

There had been some rumors that Latimer was preparing to make the ultimate sacrifice and agree to transfer the Worl Trade Center to St. Peter, as a sop for loss of the capital.

But he quickly dispelled that notion.

"You people got the state hospital instead of the capitol, and there are times when you can hardly tell the difference between the two," Latimer said. "As I drove into town, I noticed the Red Owl store on the original Capital site and that's another plus."

"You may not have gotten the capitol, but you supplied five governors to preside in it, and not even my great city can match that enviable record."

"You may envy Mickey's Diner, but you have Grandpa's Popcorn wagon," he said.

"Let me say that I was absolutely overwhelmed to arrive in this town and find my name in lights flashing from a drive- restaurant. That has never happened to me in my own city. No one has ever put George Latimer on a non-political signboard. I am touched deeply," Latimer said.

"It is time for bygones to be bygones, to bury the hatchet, to extend hands across the Minnesota River valley," said chamber manager Bob Wettergren.

"Let us remember that those two great apostles who worked side by side were St. Peter and St. Paul," said Latimer, whose emotion washed out over the audience in warm waves.

The early chill in the room became the heat of d'tente or maybe a thermostat turned up. People began taking off their jackets.

Latimer exhorted his listeners to come to St. Paul and partake of the fruits of Town Square, Energy Park, the new Worl Trade Center. He applauded St. Peter's attention to its past and its preservation of old buildings and homes.

"Just as we in St. Paul have marched forward, bearing the torch Joe Rolette threw us – or was it a piece of paper. yway, we have also sought to keep our old traditions, our old charm, our fine olds neighborhoods and city squares, serving the culture and personality. The St. Paul Cathedral is every bit as significant to our city as the tallest new lding," he said.

Earlier in the day, Latimer appeared on cable TV and told his viewers that what is evolving with the new Trade Center is hitect Cass Gilbert's dream come true of a Champs d'Elysees from the Capitol to Seventh Street.

He disavowed any ambitions for further political office.

And he did not come home empty-handed. Mayor Pyan gave him the key to the city, albeit reluctantly, recalling the ry of the Trojan horse.

He also was given an honorary -degree,- bachelor of diplomacy, from Traverse University, the worlds smallest, located t outside St. Peter, with the shortest school year and the smallest campus, the Traverse cafe.

Hopefully he is wearing his T-shirt which reads: "St Peter Welcomes St. Paul 1857-1984".

But the last line belonged to someone in the audience who said, "I'm a staunch Republican, but I've just heard the next vernor of Minnesota".

hnson With Wreath For 65 Year

: Gareth Hiebert/Oliver Towne, Columnist

St. Peter, Minn. He placed the big wreath in a patch of sunlight behind the simple marker, Ther green letters against the kdrop of yellow and white mums read: *"In loving memory from Governor Johnson's staff!"*

An oriole sang from somehwere in a nearby shade tree. It was silent in the sunshine of Green hill Cemetery until he d: "Well, its's been done again".

The tradition of remembering Gov. John Johnson, Minnesota's first native born head of state who might have become esident of the United States, had been carried out for the 65th year.

This year it was Bob Wettergren, manager of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce who kept the faith with Gov. nson's staff.

But until her death four years ago, it was Mrs. George Nutter, a neighbor of Bob's, who had made that twice-yearly gimage.

Bob looked at a grave monument about 30 yards away.

"She's there," he said, "Died at 104. The last year I brought her here with the wreath, we had to sort of prop her up until could complete her sentimental visit and the prayer she always repeated."

He looked down at the grave on the marker.

JOHN A. JOHNSON

His father was the town drunk. His mother was a washerwomen.

Yet, if he hadn't been struck down at the age of 48 on Sept. 21, 1909, during his second term in office, John Johnson ght be remembered by millions of American's instead of the few.

He was Lincolnesque, without looking like him. Whomever he touched closely became his disciple.

The ritual of the memory wreath began because people felt that way about him.

Go back to that Sept, 24, 1909. Three days earlier, in Rochester's Mayo clinic, the governor had died from what had been considered a routine operation for appendicitis.

His body lay in state in the rotunda of the new state Capital, into which he had moved not long before that. After the thousands had padded the bier, tha casket was transported to St. Peter by funeral train, which cried its mournful way up th Minnesota River Valley. Draped in black, the parlor car and coaches rolled in measured dignity past sorrowing citizens wh lined the depot platoforms at Shakopee, Belle Plaine and Le Sueur.

Just before the services in St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, the governor's staff ate lunch in the dining room fo Mrs. Nutter's home at 310 North Main Street - the house still standing as it did then.

As they sat at the table, someone suggested establishing a permanent, perpetual fund to honr their leader's memory.

Each year on Memorial Day and on the anniversary of his death, Sept, 21, they said.

A wreath was designated as the proper symbol and the words, "In loving memory from Gov. Johnson's staff."

A fund of $1,000 was collected that day at the table. It was set up as a trust. Mrs. Nutter agreed to be the purveyor of t wreath each time.

She never failed.

"She always took the same route," said Bob, as he and I retraced it last monday, the wreath in the back sea of my car.

When her husband, George, lived, they started out from the rear of the Nutter home and stopped to pick up Gov. Johnson's sister, Hattie, as long as she lived. Then they all drove up to the cemetery.

Always arriving at 3:30 p.m. exactly, I don't know why. But that was the time Mrs. Nutter chose.

After 1956 when George Nutter died, it was Bob Wettergren who drove the car.

Now he carries on the tradition alone.

On the 50th anniversay, in 1959, then Gov. Orville Freeman and a large delegation were on hand to rededicate the gravesite as a piece of hallowed Minnesota ground.

The original trust fund has gown to $3,000, assuring that the wreaths will be delivered twice a year into the foreseeabl future.

There is more to Bob Wettergren's part in the continuing drama. When she died, Mrs. Nutter willed that famous dining room table to Bob and it is used by his family daily.

I couldn't forget the sentiment in that wood, he said.

He must have had fantastic charisma, I said as Bob and I stood there last monday afternoon in the heat and calm of a May day.

Few men in the political arena have ever had more of it, nor had more honesty and humaness and truthfulness, Bob said.

John Johnson quit school when he was 13 to earn the money that finally took his mother away from her washtubs.

When he was 24, John bought half interest in the St. Peter Herald.

Sander Olson, the present editor, says he thinks he is still sitting in the same chair occupied by the young Johnson.

The building is the same as it was. And Gov. Johnson's photograph still looks down on all we do, said Sander.

John Johnson used the Herald as a vehicle for becoming widely known amoung the state's Fourth Estate and also as an cle for the Democratic cause.

In those waning years of the 19th century, the Domocrats were a small club; the Republicans were huge in numbers adn wer.

In 1904, though they split and Johnson moved into space between the wedge.

When the scandal of his boyhood, his father's alcoholism and his mother's lowly status became a campaign issue, the ss said, "Any comment?"

"Nothing, and it's all true," said Honest John.

John A. Johnson swept to victory. And his mother was there to see him greet her from the inaugural rostrum.

John Johnson had magic. Looks. Dynamic personality and he launched a Teddy Roosevelt style of liberalism. The wspapermen loved and admired him because he battled all the way for openness in government, in truth, freedom of eech and press and operation of the exective branch.

And he endeared himself to the minorities in Minnesota when he hired, as his receptionist, a part black and part Indain ned Billy Williams, who would have become a famous big leaque baseball player if he hadn't chosen to follow his vernor.

Billy Williams became a legend in his own right and it was said that until he retired in the late 1950's, he actually ran the ce because nobody could see the governot unless Billy approved.

But when Billy spoke of the governor, he was always referring to John A. Johnson.
"I loved him as no son ever loved a father," Billy once told me.

The Democrats on a national level were grooming John Johnson for the their 1912 presidential moninee when death cted him instead.

There is no doubt, the political pundit Charles Cheney wrote, that he would have been nominated in place of odrow Wilson and been elected.

All this Bob and I spoke again last Monday as we stood there, at John A. Johnson's marker and looked down across the dant green of spring in the Valley of the Minnesota.

The measured roll of the drums came again up the long, winding hill. And the shuffling of 50,000 pair of feet, people o cam to say goodbye so long ago.

St. Peter calls itself the home of five Minnesota governors.

But only one was a native son, John A. Johnson, who lived the American dream as it was meant to be lived.

n Facts From The Police Department

Let me take you back to the 1920's when Jim Meyer was the Chief of Police. Jim was half-Native American, a local St. erite, well-liked and considered the best long shot ever to hunt Swan Lake. Those were his qualifications.

Jim always carried the biggest flashlight available and could catch any kid in town in a run down. The communication system at the police department consisted of a red light by the clock at Runkel's Nu-Way Cleaners. The red light was turned on by the switchboard operators at the Northwestern Bell Telephone Exchange. The policeman, seeing the red light, would call the operator for the message.

They tell the story about a middle-aged cop who was on duty. When he didn't respond to the red light after two hours, someone investigated, only to find him home helping his wife paper the bedroom. This is quite a contrast with today's two-way radios where the police can respond in seconds.

Years ago, the Mayor would recommend to the council who he wanted for chief of his force. Chief Brad Kollmann recently said, "The candidates for a police job are already licensed when applying for a job. They must have yearly continuing education on laws and marksmanship".

This is quite different in the days of former chief and later Sheriff "Tip" Witty when they did their shooting practice at the old city dump, now Riverside Park. I remember when "Tip" stopped me and told me to keep that contraption I was driving on the side streets or country roads. It had so much play in the wheel, you'd think I had been drinking.

Brad Kollmann has been on the police force for over 30 years; the last 12 years as chief, succeeding Bud Lynn.

The St. Peter Police Department has 11 males and 6 females that make up the force. Officer Linda Hilligoss, the first female officer, has been on the force since 1981. Sue Pope is the community coordinator, and Curt Tuma holds the rank of police training officer. Police sergeants are Jerry Yushta and Loren Jensen. Bob Matz with his dog "Gunner" comprise the canine dept.

The police reserve consists of 20 males and 5 females. The reserve helps with the 4th of July, St. Patrick's Day, homecoming parades, the Traverse des Sioux Encampment and other activities. The McGruff program is under the auspices of the police department, along with the check alert system and the St. Peter Area Crime Association. Chief Kollmann said that a new organization formed by the police department is the Law Enforcement Explorers, who rank in ages from 14-21 and are an arm of the police department.

The foot patrolman is a thing of the past in many areas. I remember when a former chief was patrolling the streets and came upon a young couple parked by Levee Park. The chief knocked on the car window, flashed his light on the young couple and inquired as to what was going on. The young fellow became flustered and said, "Nothing, officer." The cop gave a hearty laugh and said, "Then you get out here and hold the flashlight and let me get in there." This same officer made only two arrests in three years. Needless to say, the justices of the peace were glad to see him retire.

The police have a policeman's ball once a year. The funds go to provide a Christmas dinner and help with needy transients.

I remember the story that was told about a former patrolman who would stop to check the bars when making the rounds. He would take off his police cap, place it on the end of the bar, and say, "I can't drink in uniform." About that time, a shot glass would come down the bar with a beer for a wash.

In closing, I am sure some of the old-timers remember when "Tip" Witty, with the greatest of ease, would catch a speedster with his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He would be really busy these days with 22,000 cars and trucks going down Minnesota Avenue daily.

St. Peter, Home Of Five Governors And Great Ringmaster, Johnny Herriott

Johnny Herriott, born and raised in St. Peter, stopped for a short visit while on his way to Baraboo, Wis., where he was a trainer at the circus headquarters for eight years.

Johnny is known among his peers as one of the world's top ringmasters and trainers and was named the circus celebrity ne year at the Circus Hall of Fame in 1976 at Sarasota, Florida. Johnny apprenticed under his father, the later Milt Herriott, ɔ was a well-known ringmaster and trainer in his own right.

Milt married Viola Engesser, one of the 11 children of the John Engesser family, whose folks came to St. Peter in 1856 to the Engesser Brewery. George, the oldest in the John Engesser family and a gifted musician, decided to go into deville and the circus field.

The Engessers that weren't in the brewery worked for George in various capacities. The late Harold Engesser was said ave played 17 different instruments at various times. Old-timers would marvel at Harold's ability to play the calliope, a l known circus instrument.

George, a close friend of Herald editor, Eddie Johnson, saw to it that the Herald did all the printing for the circus. Art ss' mother, Ruth (Engesser) was in charge of all the circus mailing. The mailing was so extensive that St. Peter became a ond class post office.

The Engesser name was so famous that it became synonymous with the circus world. George and wife Vadis had three ghters, Gigi, Vadis, and Roxie, who were all famous in the circus world.

Johnny Herriott married Mary Ruth, a well known horsewoman, at the intermission of the Shrine Circus at the Will ers Memorial Coliseum at Fort Worth, Texas, before 10,00 circus fans. Johnny's best man was Gunther Wallenda high- e pyramid family.

Johnny introduced the family many times and was present when the seven-person pyramid collapsed and two of the lendas were killed and one maimed for life. The Wallendas never used a safety net.

Johnny, a Shriner, has performed at Shrine Circuses throughout North America and is a boyhood friend of Gordon "Joe" Closkey, the president of all the Shrine Circuses of North America. Joe and Johnny lived on opposite ends of Minnesota are (Swede) Park.

Johnny recalls the days when he and his closest friend, Pell, "Jiggs" Johnson, as youngsters while making hay on the Pell n in Traverse, would dream of far-off places that they would like to visit someday.

Jiggs was stationed in Japan while in the service and Johnny spent seven months training white horses in Japan. nny's white pony, "Sapario", which he rides to the center ring, was born in Japan.

Johnny is well acquainted with the trainers of the world-famous Lippizaners of Vienna, Austria and trained many of the nals in the movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth".

During his career, Johnny was the master of ceremonies when the U.S. Marine Band (President's Band) played on the ɔs of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

On their way to Baraboo, Wis., Johnny and Mary Ruth put on a pony act at the Traverse des Sioux Interpretive Center the enjoyment of his friends and relatives in the area.

The Herriott's received a personal tour of the museum center by Dr. Don and Barb Olmanson and viewed many of the esser memorabilia and other circus items that are on display until the end of October.

"Peachy" Egli's calliope is on loan from the Egli family for the public to view. Peachy had a "Dog & Pony" show for ny years and travels the Midwest. Carl DeVere, a former employee of George Engesser for years, had the DeVere Shows were well known in the circus world.

With three circuses out of St. Peter, the town became known as the circus capital of Minnesota.

Johnny and Ruth have four daughters all performing in the circus business, and seven grandchildren waiting in the gs. Johnny's cousin, Roxie, was in St. Peter in 1985 when she shared her "Endangered Animal Species Act" with southern

Minnesota folks at Riverside park in St. Peter. Unknown to most people, she kept her white tiger under wraps from most the public.

St. Peter, known as the home of five governors, can also claim Johnny Herriott, the world's great ringmaster and anima trainer, as one of its own.

A Movie Theater-Is It Just A Dream?

The possibility of a five-screen theater in beautiful downtown St. Peter brings back a lot of memories of the people in the community.

In 1905, the businessmen of St. Peter, realizing how important an Opera House (theater) would be to the community, helped Henry Ludcke raise $25,000 to finance an Opera House in the middle of the 100 block west north of the now Nicollet Plaza.

In my correspondence with the late Gipp Ludcke in the past 30 years, I learned that Gipp, at the grand opening of the Opera House sat with Governor John A. Johnson, wife Nora and many other dignitaries.

The grand opening receipts of $3,000 were turned over to the business people in appreciation of their help in financin the building that had a seating capacity of 600 people. Gipp Ludcke, a 1921 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, developed a silver screen that hit the Midwest like hotcakes. Gipp left St. Peter in 1923 for Boston to further his education the Harvard School of Business, where he later taught and became a financial wizard among his peers.

William Ludcke, a partner in the Ludcke enterprise, passed away at an early age, leaving his share of the business to hi wife, Esther. Maxine, William Ludcke's only child, grew up in the theater business and excelled in the dramatic division of declamation in high school as she had the advantage of watching the movies along with friends as walk-ins.

In 1937, St. Peter had a second theater when Ben Berger, part owner of the Minneapolis Lakers basketball team and 38 theaters, owned the State Theater north of Miles Shoe Repair. Harry Nickel, of Cloquet, became the first manager for Berge When World War II broke our, Harry left for the military.

I remember when Louie Kasparek, an electrician for Ritt's Electric Store, filled-in operating the movie projector. Louie gave up the job when he and his wife, Vi, took over the Minnesota Valley Electric business in Le Sueur.

Upon Harry's return from the service, he and his son, Dan, operated the projectors.

Carlton "Nookie" Anderson, an usher in the theater since 1951, became the manager. When the theater closed in 1975, Ben Berger rewarded Nookie with a $25 bonus check and a silver dollar. Nookie framed the check and has it on display in his home. Ben told Nookie if he kept rubbing the silver dollar, it would bring him good luck. I reminded Nookie what the great English poet, Robert Browning, once said, "Grow old along with me - the best is yet to be".

In 1939, Ben Berger purchased the Ludcke Theater and in a short time closed it. This was the end to the once cultural center for St. Peter as many high school graduations, plays and even wrestling matches were held at the old Opera House.

I remember after the Ludcke's sold out that a prominent St. Peter woman was said to let out a scream as if a cat chasing a rat ran over her feet, or was it a rat chasing the cat.

Later, Ben Berger closed his theater, too, in 1975. He stopped to see me at the Chamber Office inquiring about the possibility of some charitable organization acquiring the theater for delinquent taxes and a fee of $15,000 for seats, equipment, etc.

I suggested that the Baptist Church might be interested. Ben asked me to arrange a meeting with the pastor for the nex week to consummate a sale if they were interested. I remember Ben reducing the price to $10,000 as he would get a tax write-off. Pastor David Kahler and I inhaled a lot of smoke from Ben's stogies before the deal was complete.

When the church official couldn't get the property rezoned, they sold the property to Larry and Gloria Eck for a rehouse for their furniture business. The Baptists placed a covenant on the sale of the property so that never again could re be a theater on the property as they didn't believe in movies. Pastor Kahler and I had a few unpublished words about s at a later date.

Later, attorneys Malcolm MacKenzie and Bill Gustafson purchased the property from the Ecks, demolished the building d sold part of the land to the city for parking and retained the other part for their law offices.

Many movie enthusiasts hope the prospect of the theater is a reality rather than just talk as when the all developer was place a theater at the intersection of Grace and Third Streets.

. Peter, Home of Olympic Trainer Gayle Hanson Olson

Gayle Hanson Olson, while managing the Roy "Tuddie" Lindenberg Swimming Pool and clerking at Swedberg Drugs in Peter, had dreams of participating in the Olympics in some capacity.

Gayle, a graduate of St. Peter High School and later Gustavus Adolphus College in 1977, became the first student ysical education major to graduate in specialized athletic training under the tutelage of Professor Gary Reinholtz, a person o is highly recognized in the field of sports medicine.

Professor Reinholtz was recently inducted into the Minnesota Athletic Trainer's Association for 1996 and received the 96 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award.

Speaking of sports medicine, Gayle said, "Dr. Will Sutherland, a St. Peter osteopath, was one well known in the field. s wife, Adah, was a cousin of L. J. Gault, Sam Gault's father and piano teacher.

“The Sutherlands lived where Lois Anthony now resides. Dr. Will's secretary was Anne L. Wales, who was also an eopath and once lived in St. Peter. She typed and edited Dr. Sutherland's books. She is now 93 and practices part-time.”

In 1979, Gayle received her Master of Science at the University of Indiana, specializing in sports medicine. She was an sistant trainer at Indiana, but was not allowed in the basketball area as Bobby Knight forbade women in that area.

Incidentally, while she was assisting Professor Reinholtz at Gustavus, she was not allowed on the football field at the llege of St. Thomas. Later, she was the trainer for the Pan-Am games when Bobby Knight was the coach.

In 1978, Gayle was named a certified trainer by the National Athletic Association. She established the Athletic Trainers at neaton College, near Boston in 1979, and remained there until she entered the private sector as a physical trainer for the ork-Fit Division of Healthtrax. The nature of her job is to get injured employees back on the job in minimum time, thus ving the company 50 to 70 percent in worker's compensation fees.

Gayle's first experience with tight security was as a trainer for the World University Games in Bucharest, Romania and e Pan-Am Games in Havana, Cuba. She had the opportunity to meet Fidel Castro and was given some of his famous cigars a gift. Gayle said, “Although Castro spoke through an interpreter, I am sure he understood every word spoken”.

Gayle was the trainer for Jim Dutcher's basketball camp at Gustavus in 1979-1980. She became a good friend of Kevin Hale, Boston Celtic great, who is now general manager for the Timberwolves. While in Boston, she was a volunteer iner for the Boston Marathon runners in 1980-1981, and she was the trainer for the U.S. Field Hockey in England in 1982.

Gayle was involved with many national and international teams. The highlight of her career was when she was named ne of the 19 trainers for the XXIII Olympic games held in Los Angeles in 1984.

Carl Lewis, co-winner of the most gold medals (9), was one of the many famous athletes with whom she worked.

1984 was the first year the trainers were welcomed in the procession at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. Needless to say, she broke out with goose pimples realizing that she was representing the U.S.A.

Gayle has been working with Dr. Dave Sirota, a physical therapist who learned Dr. Sutherland's techniques from Dr. Wales. Dr. Wales requested that Gayle's mother, Carol, send pictures of historic places in St. Peter.

When Dr. Wales received one of the Church of the Holy Communion, she reached in her drawer and pulled out a picture of the church which she had taken while in St. Peter 50 years ago.

Gayle married a widower, Russ Olson, now a tax compliance officer, with four children, Duane, Derik, Heather, and Hilary. Gayle and Russ have added two more to the family since their marriage, Gretchen and Erin. They have two grandchildren, Caitlyn and Erin. The Olsons reside in North Easton, near Boston.

Surely St. Peter can claim to be the home of five governors and Olympic Trainer Gayle Hanson Olson.

Lion's Club Celebrates 50 Years

The St. Peter Lions' Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 5, at Duggan's Supper Club.

The charter night 50 years ago was held at the Cook-e-Jar in Cook's Hotel-Cafe. The Mankato Club was the sponsor. Leo Runkel, the only charter member of the club today, attended with his wife, Evie. Francis Rhea, local J. C. Penney manager, was the first president of the local Lion's Club.

Two hundred people heard Judge Luther W. Youngdahl, a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, and a three-term governor of Minnesota, give an inspiring and informative speech.

According to the St. Peter Herald, Youngdahl said, "The building of character begins in the highchair. Mankind has gone far in the prevention of disease. However, our crime waves, our jails, our correctional institutes and worldwide wars indicate that man has done little in the breakdowns of human relationships. The task begins in the heart and in the home".

1996-1997 Lion's officers and directors are: president, Glen Anderberg; vice president, Richard Kunzia; second vice president, Judy Conroy; third vice president, Joan Blank; secretary, Jerry Lucas; and treasurer, Les Peterson.

One-year directors: Kathy Conlon, Larry Gunderson, and Dennis Zochert. Two-year directors: Tom Bolstad, Rich Johnson and JoAnn Pool. Membership chairman: Paul Dumdei. Lion Tamers: Tim Kennedy and Henry Sadler.

Lion Twisters: Lorna Bungum, Doug Minter and Pete Moulton. Past president was Mark Zallek. The oldest past president in terms of office is Bob Wettergren, 1954-1955.

The Lion's International as of June 1 has 1,436,619 members in 43,187 clubs in 180 nations. The Lions are involved in many worthwhile projects, with sight conservation as the number one project.

Each Lion is responsible for a program during the year. I remember some of my programs. I had the controversial, the late Billy Martin; Jim Perry, former Cy Young winner; and Clark Griffith, vice president of the Twins, as speakers. When the World Championship Minneapolis Lakers trained at Gustavus, my program and guests were the entire team, coaches and staff.

St. Peter Lion's Club membership is at an all-time high with 80 members on its roster. Anyone interested in becoming a member may contact any member of the Lions.

ne Bases Are Covered

Recently, the Rochester Post Bulletin showed a picture of a check that the immortal Henry Louis Gehrig wrote to the hler Hotel in Rochester for the amount of $22,96. This cancelled check, written on June 20, 1939, was recently auctioned f for $12,323.

As you may well remember, the late Henry Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive baseball games. At the Hall of Fame in ooperstown, N.Y., there is a plaque of Gehrig. On it is inscribed, "a record that will stand for all time". In 1995, Cal Ripken, broke Gehrig's record.

An interesting note in regard to Gehrig's visit at the Mayo Clinic is that Lou Nolan, now of St. Peter, was standing on the rport runway at Rochester with Dr. O'Leary and Gehrig when reporters asked Gehrig how he made out with his health eckup at the clinic. Gehrig responded, "There will be an announcement tomorrow from the New York Yankee office".

As you know, the Yankees announced that Gerhig had multiple sclerosis, now referred to as Lou Gehrig disease.

Lou Nolan, by the way was the district sales manager for Continental Airlines at Rochester. Lou had the distinction of ing the co-chairman of the first airport dedication at Rochester in 1939.

As the great Hall of Fame baseball player and later announcer for the game of the week, "Dizzy" Dean, used to say, "If u done it - it ain't braggin"". Lou Nolan was there, so he done it! He talked with the great Lou Gehrig.

hamber Remembers Early St. Peter Manufacturers

*Editor's Note: October 14 - 18 is Manufacturer's Week in St. Peter, as proclaimed by Mayor Jerry Hawbaker during onday's City Council Meeting. To help celebrate the week, the Chamber of Commerce held an open house Tuesday giving cal manufacturers an opportunity to showcase their goods.

Butter, overalls, beer and coffins. Those were the products of early St. Peter manufacturers, according to local historian, ob Wettergren.

These basic products of yesteryear have been replaced by all sorts of products for today's lifestyles being made by St. eter's present-day manufacturers (list below).

Fresh butter was the key product of the St. Peter Creamery. Farmers skimmed the cream from the milk and kept it cool ntil the cream truck took it to town. There it was pasteurized and churned.

"There was a creamery about every eight miles, about as far as you'd want to haul the fresh cream", recalled Wettergren, hose family was in the dairy business for many years. The skim milk left behind after the cream was taken off went to feed ows or pigs, but sometimes just went down the drain.

Overalls, coats and jackets were manufactured right on Minnesota Avenue by Johnson and Company. "Go-phor" was e brand name of garments, which were constructed in the three-story building at the corner of Broadway that now housed fices and the video shop. The overalls and jackets were well made with lots of handy pockets, Wettergren remembers.

The Engesser Brewery was on of St. Peter's oldest industries, starting business in 1857. "Every town had a brewery," said ettergren. He said that the business was at its peak in the late 1930's. The brick building that housed it, on the Minnesota ver bank east of Hardee's, is now used by All-Paper Recycling. The enterprising Engessers also had a circus, which is atured in the current exhibit at the Traverse des Sioux History Center.

Caskets were made by undertakers of the period, who traditionally made and sold furniture as well. It was a practical rrangement, using the same materials and tools - furniture for living, caskets for the dead. Klein Funeral Home, 906 N. ashington, is the survivor of several old time casket/furniture manufacturers.

Today, St. Peter makes neither butter nor beer, coats nor caskets. Instead, manufacturers produce sophisticated foods fo business and leisure. The companies (listed alphabetically) and their products include:

All Paper Recycling, 101 Pine St. - a wood substitute crafted form old newspapers
Alumacraft, 315 W. Julian St. - boats
Cargill, 1502 N. Gault - hybrid seeds
Davisco, warehouse at 119 N. Front St. - dairy products
Jaraff Industries, 2011 Gault St. - ride-away tree trimmers
Hendrickson Organs, 1403 N. 5th St - Pipe Organs
Onan Power Electronics, 522 N. Swift - motors and pulleys
Phenix Composites, 1511 N. Gault - building materials composed of soy byproducts and recycled paper
River Valley Industries, Gault St. - a variety of products, including fire starters
Roloco, Kasota - injected and molded plastic products
St. Peter Glassworks, 1700 Gault St. - windows, mirrors
St. Peter Woolen Mill, 101 W. Broadway - wool products
Taytronics, 430 Ritt St. - electronic components
Widen Metal Fabricating, 1206 S. Front - tools

St. Peter, Just A Little Bit Of Heaven

In 1858, St. Peter Company failed in its quest to have the State Capitol moved to St. Peter when "Jolly" Joe Rolette stole the bill and hid out for 24 hours in a St. Paul Hotel.

Despite the failed quest, the St. Peter Company built a temporary Capitol building on the corner of Broadway and Minnesota Ave. It turned out to be a godsend. The building became the Nicollet County Seat, moving from Traverse des Sioux by referendum of the voters.

The building was used as a Nicollet County Court House until 1881, when a new building was erected at its present location. The city took over the temporary Capitol building and used it for city offices until 1885, when the building was consumed by fire.

Someone recently asked if St. Peter was given the St. Peter State Hospital (Regional Treatment Center) as a consolation prize? The reason that the State Hospital, a mental institution, the first and oldest, came to St. Peter, was because people of St. Peter went after it by raising $7,000.00 to buy the 210.9 acre Dorrington farm, the main campus below the hill. That's how St. Peter acquires businesses, schools, etc., St. Peter goes for them.

For instance, St. Ansgar's Academy (now Gustavus Adolphus College), when thinking about relocating, was enticed by the business people and farmers of St. Peter area when $10,000.00 was raised to purchase land for site.

Also, the Minnesota School Boards Association headquarters have been in St. Peter since 1950 because it was the home of Bill Wettergren, executive secretary for 33 years.

The Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, with world headquarters in St. Peter, is here because of the efforts of Stuart and Marlys Johnson. The offices first operated out of the Johnson home.

The Modular Pre-Fab Home quarters was replaced by Alumacraft Boat Company, due to the efforts of Bill Pell and Jerry Lager, who, on behalf of the St. Peter Ambassadors, sold Alumacraft officials on the advantages of moving to St. Peter.

During the course of 140 years, the Babcock Company of nearby Kasota closed and the building was replaced by Door Engineering Firm - The Johnson and Co. building on the corner of Broadway and Minnesota Ave., and now is occupied by Dr. Steve Moore and Video Magic.

The Jamar and B & D Housing building, once owned by Davisco, is now the home of Phenix Composites, The Engesser ewery building was occupied by Land O'Lakes Cheese Factory, then Beam Furniture and lately, Widen Tool nufacturing. The Northland Ski building on the north end is now occupied by Onan Power Electronics.

But many large employers went out of business or moved to other cities. A.H. Hermel Candy and Tobacco Company oved to a rural Mankato location. The George A. Hormel stock-buying station moved to Norseland.

Bolton & Menk relocated to Mankato. The St. Peter Creamery, now Davisco, moved its operation to Le Sueur with only a arehouse remaining in St. Peter. The St. Peter Title Company was closed after the death of Keith Connors.

Minnegasco, once the southern Minnesota Valley Natural Gas Company, moved to the Twin Cities area after being rchased by Minneapolis Gas Company. Two of the largest and best known road construction companies, Hallett's and omatz companies, moved or retired from business.

I am sure there are many more industries that I failed to mention that were once located in the St. Peter area.

St. Peter officials did a great job trying to entice the State of Minnesota to place the Veterans Hospital in St. Peter that ent to Luverne; and to obtain the Biomass plant that went to Granite Falls, but ended up bridesmaids as politics prevailed both cases.

Despite having built a temporary State Capitol building in St. Peter in 1858, in anticipation that a permanent building ould be built, look how much better St. Peter turned out. "You can find a little bit of heaven in St. Peter."

hamber Speakers Revisited

Many St. Peter Herald readers far and near have asked me to do a commentary on some of the speakers I had for the amber dinners and other events, so let's begin with the fabulous Halsey Hall.

*Halsey Hall - a writer, radio announcer, and TV personality, was everybody's friend. I remember when he came to St. ter on his birthday accompanied by his wife, Sue and grandson, Bill. At the banquet, the late Hub Fischer and Don ergert showed him a clipping of a game played against Glencoe in 1929 which Halsey officiated.

St. Peter snapped Glencoe's 32 game win streak and the Saints went undefeated. Halsey said that the 1929 Saints otball team was one of the greatest for which he ever officiated in his long career.
alsey was the announcer that coined the phrase "Holy Cow!"

Harry Caray, present TV announcer for the Chicago Cubs and Phil "Scooter" Ruzzito, New York Yankee radio announcer, so laid claim to the phrase.

Halsey used the term "Holy Cow" before Harry and Phil knew the difference between a cow and it's male companion. alsey once told me that he missed two broadcasts in 50 years - once his watch stopped and the other time he was capacitated.

*Stuart A. Lindman - an announcer for Channel 11 for over 25 years, was a World War II disabled veteran who was in emand as a speaker. I remember Stuart stopping off at the Chamber office on more than one occasion, when going through wn on his was to an engagement.

*Randy Merriman - former WCCO celebrity, was also the emcee for the "Big Pay-off" on CBS for 10 years, traveling to ew York City every week. In Randy's late years, he had a program "Fans in the Stands" at the old Met Stadium. Tom olstad and I would meet him in the "Twins Room" before the game so he could tell us where to be in order to get on his ogram prior to the game. I remember Randy parking his robins-egg blue cadillac with his personalized license plates in ont of the Chamber office. Randy would stop off for a cup of coffee topped off with some of the late Nancy Anton's tasty ookies, on his way to Farmfest, Lake Crystal, where he had a booth.

*Gareth Hiebert - grew up in New Ulm, the city that Capt. Dodd, founder of St. Peter, and volunteers helped save during the Native American Conflict in 1862. Gareth, a writer for the St. Paul Dispatch for over 45 years, wrote under the pen name of Oliver Towne.

*Don Riley - sports writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, was a friend of Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth, as were most sportswriters. Don, a recovering alcoholic, wrote a well known book "High and Dry", in which he mentioned the names of well-known people who are recovering AA members.

*Nancy Nelson (Carlson) - is the wife of the present day WCCO announcer, Bill. Nancy a former "Miss Minnesota" and a runner up for "Miss America" contest at Atlantic City, charmed the audience with her personality and beauty.

She worked for Channel 11 doing the weather and commercials. She is the type of person that you would take home to mother if father weren't around.

I remember when her husband, Bill Carlson, and Charlie Boone accompanied her to St. Peter when Charlie's daughter was a student at Gustavus Adolphus College for four years. During the program, they treated Charlie's daughter and friend to dinner at the Holiday House.

*Jim Klobuchar - grew up in Ely during the end of the depression, so he had firsthand knowledge of "touch times." He was a great outdoor enthusiast who wrote for the Minneapolis papers for 35 years.

A few years back, Jim led 300 bicyclists into St. Peter. They rested at Minnesota Square Park and were fed by the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in record time. Jim, along with former U of M and Viking star, Carl Eller, in the party, nearly lost their lives while mountain-climbing in the Himalayas during a snowstorm.

*Maynard Speece - a former ag person and friend of former ag instructor Casey Dowling of St. Peter High, was a companion of Roger Erickson on the early WCCO newscasts that made WCCO the most listened to station in the U.S.

Maynard, accompanied by his wife, Marigold, a former highschool sweetheart, thrilled the 220 Chamber people who attended the event despite one of Minnesota's severest snow storms.

A few months after being in St. Peter, Maynard suffered a stroke and moved to Texas. However, a few years ago, he and Marigold returned to the place from whence they came and now are enjoying Minnesota's change of seasons.

Boone, Erickson, Lurtsema, And Quilici

Among Past Speaker's at Chamber

Last week I mentioned that several of the Herald readers requested that I do a commentary about some of the speakers I had for Chamber events over the past twenty years. This week I shall continue by beginning with Roger Erickson and Charlie Boone of WCCO fame.

*Roger Erickson - first of all, very few St. Peter folks know that Roger's Aunt Ellen Lindgren lived in St. Peter after retiring from a farm in Bernadotte when her husband passed away. Ellen was a life long friend of Bill Gustafson's late mother, Myrtle, who also hailed from Bernadotte. Roger came off the fields of Bernadotte to make good in the field of announcing.

I remember dropping a line to Roger asking him to speak at our Chamber dinner honoring Russ and Rhoda Lund, the major contributors toward Lund Arena on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. Roger called back and said, "We'll both be down." meaning both Charlie Boone and he.

*Charlie Boone - Charlie is a preachers kid who hails from the east and was known as a sort of a "City Slicker." Charlie's daughter was in her fourth year at Gustavus when Charlie would accompany WCCO speakers to St. Peter. He said, "The Lunds helped put my daughter through college by advertising with WCCO for the past 18 years." Charlie got a taste of country life when he married a beautiful farm girl from Maynard.

-R: Charlie Boone (WCCO), Ross Bloomquiest (President of Chamber, 1979), Bob Wettergren hamber Manager) and Roger Erickson (WCCO)

*Bob Lurtsema - "Benchwarmer Bob," is a former Viking football player who seems like a big overgrown kid. We were lucky that he was a close personal friend of Vern Berglin, CEO at Alumacraft, who lined up Bob for us. I remember Bob was in St. Peter to speak at the time our daughters were home for the weekend from the University of Minnesota. They had a ball chitchating with "Benchwarmer Bob." Lurtsema gave me his unlisted phone number before coming down with the understanding that I destroy it after the dinner. This was to prevent nuisance calls to him at all hours of the night.

*John Gallos - John of WCCO was no stranger to St. Peter. He remembers being employed at the radio station KYSM, Mankato, and that he did a program at the State Theater in St. Peter during World War II. He was another speaker I was able to line up through my acquittance with the late Halsey Hall. John is still doing commercials for WCCO.

*Frank Quilici - Frank was a close friend of Roger Schoeb through their snowmobile days. Frank was a player, manager d announcer of the Minnesota Twins baseball organization. Frank played in the Yankee organization at Denver with Dr. ward Lindell, former president of Gustavus.

Frank brought his folks, who were visiting with him, to Chamber to meet Dr. and Mrs. Lindell. I remember after dinner ere was a post meeting at the Holiday House that included Frank, his folks, president of the Chamber, John Bresnahan and r wives.

Frank's father made the remark that he could never say anything but good about Calvin Griffith. He explained that he d a sister that was born in Italy after he came to America and was at the time living in California and he had never seen r. Calvin told the elderly Quilicis to be ready to travel with the Twins when they were in Chicago and Calvin would let em fly to California at his expense to meet his sister.

*Mark Dayton - Mark, a former Minnesota commissioner of development and later state auditor, was a remarkable rson, despite his wealth. He was married to one of the Rockefeller daughters when he came to St. Peter. The City of St. ter had filed for a $125,000 grant from Farmers Home Administration for sewers in Community Spirit Industrial Park and e project seemed in limbo.

I was instructed to contact Mark to see what he could do to speed things up. He flew to Mankato in his personal plane meet with St. Peter officials. I remember Sam Gault and I picked up Mark for the tour of St. Peter Industrial Parks. terwards, Mark called Walter Mondale and, after a few minutes turned to me and said, "St. Peter got the grant." Later Mark oke at our Chamber banquet, and when visiting with my wife Renee and Terry Gault, informed them that he was the one no got up at night to feed his baby and make the necessary diaper changes. Mark stopped at the Chamber office at a later te while going through town. I told him the effects on Sam and me of his telling our wives about his nursery duties.

*Jim Hill - Jim, a native from Tri-Mont, was the farm director for WCCO radio at one time. He was well acquainted in the ld of agriculture and was an active farmer until a back injury forced him off the farm at an early age.

*Ginger Cisco - Ginger, a former English teacher, spent many years with the station WCCO and public radio. Her voice as compatible with her charm. Ginger, like Nancy Nelson, is the kind of girl you would take home to mother.

hamber Remembers More Illustrious Speakers

This week I shall continue my commentary on more of the speakers I had speak during my 20 years as manager of the amber of Commerce. Let's begin with Bill Carlson of WCCO.

*Bill Carlson - Bill has been a noon newscaster for WCCO television longer than most people remember. Bill is no stranger to St. Peter, as he accompanied his wife Nancy Nelson when she spoke at the Chamber dinners previously. He is the dean of news people, not only in the Twin Cities area, but across the country.

*George Latimer - George was mayor of St. Paul at the time he was our speaker. My thanks to Gareth Hiebert (Oliver Towne) of the St. Paul Dispatch, who suggested George as a speaker, since Gareth knew that St. Peter had very little to do with St. Paul after "Jolly" Joe Rolette stole the bill that would have moved the location of the capital to St. Peter back in 1858.

*Stanley E. Hubbard II - Stan Hubbard, now the C.E.O. of Hubbard Broadcasting and KSTP, was at the time he spoke at our Chamber of Commerce dinner the youngest person we engaged for the event. Stan, by the way, was the most eligible bachelor in Minnesota when he was in St. Peter.

I remember Stan driving to St. Peter with an arm in a sling as a result of an injury received while playing amateur hockey. He alluded to the fact that he played many games against Ken Lundberg former manager of KRBI. Stan's speech was about the television dish that his company was developing. Now it's reality.

*Stan Turner - Stan was a newscaster for Hubbard Broadcasting for over 20 years and did some teaching at the University of Minnesota. Stan was lined up for us through the courtesy of his boss Stan Hubbard.

*Tony Bouza - Tony was chief of police of Minneapolis at the time he favored us as a speaker. He was born in Portugal and grew up in New York City. People couldn't avoid recognizing his Bronx accent. When giving his speech, he said, "I wonder what Erica (his wife) is doing tonight? She was jailed more times than you can count on your fingers for her protesting habits.

*Erica Bouza - Erica was born in England and noted for her "Cockney" accent. When she wasn't protesting, she was making custom jewelry. She not only had a booth at the Renaissance Fair, but traveled throughout the Midwest to sell her wares. She and Tony made and impressive looking couple, since she was six-feet tall and Tony was six feet four inches tall.

*Carl Johnson - Carl was a state representative for several years for District 23B. He was known as the Will Rogers - type of person with his dry and witty humor. Despite his party affiliation, he was liked by all. His congeniality reminded me of a quote from former Gov. John A. Johnson, "I never forgot a friend nor did I remember an enemy."

*Joe Solien - Joe was the C.E.O. at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center (state hospital) when he was our speaker. Joe, a good-natured person, was well-liked by his employees. Like Bill Pederson, the present C.E.O., he kept the public well informed as to what was going on at the institution.

*Carl Pohlad - Carl, when asked to speak at the Chamber, said, "I am not much of a speaker, but I will bring my right hand executive, Christians, and Tony Olivia along." Carl is a very modest person despite his rating with Forbes magazine as a being a billionaire. I remember Carl, Tony and myself riding up to the Student Union at Gustavus with Chief Brad Kollman at the wheel. This was not only for security reasons, but because Carl had a bad hip and it was difficult for him to walk very far.

Carl told the Chamber crowd that if they brought 500 tickets for a Twins game, he would put on a free picnic for us and give us a $500 refund. The Ambassadors lined up eleven buses to transport 500 people to the game. Joe Solien and I went down to pick up the final 250 tickets and were guests of Carl and Eloise Pohlad.

When Joe and I were walking to our seats with the Pohlads, people practically genuflected when we went by. The day before the big event at the Metrodome, I received a call from the Twins office asking, "Do you know everyone who bought tickets?" This was for security reasons, as Carl planned to attend the game. There was one person I didn't know, so Chief Brad Kollman sat across the aisle from him.

*Dorothy Pohlad Dolphin - Dorothy, a sister to Carl, had her own business known as Dolphin's Enterprises. She would send people out to do anything from janitorial services to secretarial work. Later, I found out that our daughter, Debbie, worked for her while at the University of Minnesota. Dorothy came to St. Peter, I think, because her brother, Carl spoke highly of St. Peter. Dorothy was on the Board of Regents at the College of St. Thomas at the time, and brother Carl, was on the Board at Hamline University in St. Paul.

cko, Jeff, Jim, Clark, Angie And Billy Were Chamber Speakers

This week I shall continue my series of celebrity speakers for the Chamber of Commerce by starting with Jocko Nelson.

*Jocko Nelson - Jocko was a former Gustavus Adolphus College player and coach who played under Dr. Lloyd llingsworth. Jocko later was a Viking coach under Bud Grant. He teamed up with Jeff Wright, former University of nnesota and Viking player, to provide on of the most interesting Chamber programs ever.

I remember Rollie Neils discussing his son's pro future with Jocko. Steve Neil's after a great career at the University of nnesota, signed with St. Louis Cardinals, where he played for seven years. Jocko died unexpectedly after a distinguished reer.

*Jeff Wright - Jeff a defensive player for the Vikings, also had good football sense. He was as good at the podium as he s on the field. I remember him quoting Viking coach Bud Grant's famous words when giving a speech: "Stand tall so ople can see you, speak loud so people can hear you, and keep it short so people will remember you." Jeff later became E.O. at Super Value.

*Jim Perry - Jim was a member of the Minnesota Twins when he won the coveted "Cy" Young Award in 1965. I became quainted with Jim when he was part owner of Home Juice Co.,. Bloomington, MN. Renee and I were the owners of the ettergren Dairy and were the first and largest distributor of Home Juice with the exception of the Twin Cities.

When Jim was owner of Dial Net telephone and member of the Chamber, he sponsored a "Business After Hours" at oreland. It cost him over $600.00 that evening. He said, "It was a poor investment, as the service was dropped shortly er I left the Chamber."

One story about Jim is that after he left the Twins, he became a scout for the Oakland A's and was responsible for ning Terry Steinbach for the sum of $10,000.00. Another story that comes to mind is Jim telling Renee and me about ting habits of Frank Howard, a former major league player and now coach. Frank stood 6 ft. 8 inches, so he had a great pacity for food. For breakfast, he would consume a dozen eggs, a gallon of milk plus hash browns and meat.

*Clark Griffith - Clark is the son of Calvin, owner and president of the Minnesota Twins. I asked him to speak at Lion's dies Day at the annual spring luncheon. Clark, a graduate of Dartmouth and later an attorney, was an articulate speaker. I member being in the catacombs of the old Met Stadium near the visitor's dressing room when a player threw a tantrum.

Clark took me to the side and said, "Bob, remember what you see here and hear here, stays here." Clark was not one of e late Billy Martin's favorites as Billy didn't care too much for people with academic credentials.

*Angie Guiliani - Angie played with St. Paul before going to the Washington Senators baseball team and later with the St. uis Browns. He was with the Griffith family as a player and scout for over 60 years. He conducted the baseball clinic with hn Mauer and the late Bill Kane for over twenty years.

For years I carried clippings of the Bakers, Bowles, and Bresnahans to Angie at the old Met to encourage him to give em a break in baseball. Angie called one Sunday morning and asked for the phone number of Willard Baker, as he was ing to sign Brad. At a later date, Angie called the Chamber office for Dick Bresnahan's number, as the Twin's were going offer Bob a tryout at the Twins minor league camp in Melbourne, FL.

*Billy Martin - No doubt, Billy was one of the most colorful and controversial players ever to don a major league iform. Tom Bolstad and I knew him as a scout, player and manager over the years. When Billy was out of baseball in 70, he did public relations work for Grain Belt Beer.

I was able to obtain him as a speaker for Lion's Farmers Day through my friend, Frank Kiewel, who was the C.E.O. at ain Belt at the time. Billy, despite his reputation as a manager for the Twins, Detroit, Texas, Oakland, and the Yankees ur times, he had a great deal of respect for Calvin Griffith, who was the first to hire him as a manager.

Calvin said, "I will never say anything against Billy while he is in uniform." Calvin being the gentleman that he is didn't y anything against Billy when he was out of uniform, either.

St. Peter's Volunteer Fire Pros From 1874 To 1997

On Jan. 1, 1997, Winthrop "Windy" Block's name appeared on the desk at the Fire Station Office as the chief. He is the fifteenth chief in the illustrious history of the St. Peter Volunteer Fire Department.

According to the St. Peter Herald's Diamond Jubilee special edition, the Union Fire Department was established in 1874. The fire department was reorganized in 1891 with E. C. Hed, president; T. W. Knoll, vice-president; Nick Kneip, secretary; and John Engesser, treasurer.

The fire department minute books and the Herald provide the information that the following firemen have served as chiefs since the organization began: George Stelzer, George Tolan, Edward Bornemann, Henry Miller, Otto Walters, Pat Burns, William Thomas, John Mollert, Alfred "Taffy" Bolstad, Robert Wolfe, Roy Warning, Dennis Peterson, James Randolph, Art Zuhlsdorf, and present chief, "Windy" Block.

The fire department consists of 36 members. The group consists of closely knit, dedicated volunteers with many third and fourth generation firemen.

The Warning name is synonymous with the fire department. Charlie served in the 1920's and 30's. Sons, Roy and Earl, and grandson, Steve followed. Roy was a member for 40 years, serving as a chief the last 22 years. Earl served as assistant chief and Earl's son, Steve , just retired from the department. Joe Volk, and employee of Warning's Sheet Metal and Heating (now Ahren's Plumbing and Heating), served 35 years and was assistant chief at one time.

Ed Theis was a member of the department in the 1920s and 30s. His son, the late Roger Theis, also was on the force. Ed has three grandsons and a great grandson in the department. John Kennedy is the assistant chief and Tom Kennedy is the safety officer. Pat and John's son, Josh, makes up the balance of the Kennedy clan.

William E. Thomas a former chief, also had a son in the department, Howard. Howard later became deputy fire marshall of the state of Minnesota. Ron Neary, Sr. is the only person on the fire department payroll. He is listed as payroll maintenance engineer and is responsible for care of the building, trucks and equipment. He has two sons in the department, Ron, Jr., who is the drillmaster, and Jim.

Ron and Dick Miller will have 30 years with the department this year. Other father/son combinations include Lt. Ed Bakke and son, Dustin; past chief Art Zuhlsdorf and son, Scott; chief "Windy" and son, Justin; and retired chief Jim Randolph's son, Jim is now with the department. Patrick Monahan and retired grandson, Clarence, were with the department for many years.

Robert "Big Stub" Holz and brother Walter "Little Stub" Holz were another brother combination who were on the roster. "Taffy" Bolstad, who served as a secretary and later as chief, was with the department for over 30 years. His brother, Ray, drove the fire truck for over 16 years and made his home at the fire station when he was single.

The other truck driver was "Chab" Young, who lived across the alley from the fire station. "Chab's" brother was former chief of police, Bill Young, who served the department.

Secretaries who served the department in the late years include: "Taffy" Bolstad, Carl Keller, Wyvil "Peewee" Clark, Jim Seitzer, and presently, Art Zuhlsdorf. The St. Peter Firemen's Associations present officers are Bernie Theiman, president; Dick Miller, vice-president; Jerry Yushta, secretary; and Jeff Knuston, treasurer. Tom Roessler is the captain of the fire department.

Many employees of the City of St. Peter and Minnegasco have been or are in the department. They include: the late chief of police, Bill Young, and the late Jim Sandeen, former superintendent of light and water and a member for 25 years.

Presently, besides "Windy" Block, we have Jerry Yushta, Larry Greenig, Ken Kocmick, Jeff Knutson, Dave Olmanson and Mike McCarthy, former Gas Co. employees were prior chief Dennis Peterson (35 years), Charlie Kirby, Harold Hobday (31 years), and Pat Schmitz, Brad Haugdahl and Art Zuhlsdorf now represent the gas company.

The plumbers also have been well represented over the years. They include: Ed Theis, Roger Thies, Al Potts, George iess, Harold "Peanuts" Coulter, Allen "Bud" Strand and presently, Rich Ryan.

The rest of the roster heretofore not mentioned on the present force include: Jim Yost, Jack Albrecht, Craig Eckert, Stuart ouglas, Bruce Wenner, Jerry Conlon, Sam Glackler, Pat Pehrson, Steve Scholl, and John Malmborg.

Former firemen who served over 30 years include: Henry Fiedler, Theodore Wolfe, William Wolfe, Allen "Bud" Strand d Louie Haney, who served over 30 years as the Fire Association treasurer.

Chief "Windy" Block also served many years as secretary of the fire department, and in addition to being St. Peter's chief, now the secretary and treasurer of the Minnesota Valley Regional Firefighters Association.

ore About The St. Peter Fire Department

The land for the old fire department building, according to Tim and Barb Fister, was purchased by the City of St. Peter in 378. The date for the construction of the old fire hall was close to the 1890's. This date we will use until future ages find the orrect one.

In 1910, the second addition was added to the fire station. The final addition was in 1934, during the Great Depression, hen 60 feet was added to the west with the use of WPA (Works Projects Administration) funds. This building not only oused the fire department, but also included the city offices on the second floor.

The back part of the addition was the headquarters for the street department. (Speaking of the street department, I must dd to my list of former city employees the name of Lawrence Maxson, who worked for the city for 25 years and served the e department nearly 40 years.)

In 1962, the city purchased the former Nicollet County garage for the headquarters for the fire department when the ounty moved into a new building on Sunrise Drive. A two-stall addition was built in 1968 to house the ambulances. Since en, the ambulance has moved to the Community Hospital headquarters.
oday, the fire department has taken over the "jaws for life" equipment, thus freeing the ambulance crew for more time in tending to the injured.

Originally, the ladder and hose carts, the first pieces of equipment, were drawn by man power. Today, eight trucks are oused in the fire station. This includes the 1931 Knox truck, the 1950 Mack truck, and the 1969 Snorkel.

The city purchased a snorkel to aid in fighting fires at Gustavus Adolphus College, the St. Peter Regional Treatment enter, churches and other tall buildings. The snorkel, purchased for $75,000, seemed very expensive at the time. Today, at same piece of equipment would cost $450,000.

The city has contracts not only with Gustavus and the Regional Treatment Center, but also with parts of Oshawa and ake Prairie Townships, and all of Traverse Township.

The fire department of the city of St. Peter has a mutual agreement with Kasota, Cleveland, Nicollet, Gaylord and Le ueur fire departments to aid each other when fires demand such.

Very few people realize that, because of our excellent equipment and volunteers, we have the lowest meaning, best ting possible. The only way the city could have a lower rating would be if the fire department contained all salaried remen. The department is made up of volunteers, except for Ron Neary, who is a paid employee.

Without the least equivocation the employment of Ron Neary was the best move the city ever made. Ron is responsible or the maintenance of the trucks, building, and all the equipment.

The St. Peter Volunteer Relief Association officers are: president, John Malmborg; vice president, Rich Ryan; treasurer, ruce Wenner; and secretary, Stuart Douglas. Trustees are John Kennedy and Ken Koemick.

The Volunteer Fire Department has a yearly ball that started back in the last century. The firemen dressed in their impressive uniforms to canvass the city yearly, selling tickets to promote the event.

I would like to remind the Herald readers that much of my information is taken from the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee edition, Edward A. Johnson, editor. Eddie, as known to his friends, received a huge silver loving cup from the editorial association for his classic. Eddie was the father of Billie Peterson, Myhra Hermel, Carol Menk, Pell "Jiggs" Johnson, and the late Gloria Davis. He met an untimely death in the mid 1930's.

Speaking of Billie Peterson reminds me that I neglected to mention in the "father and son combinations" former chief Dennis Peterson and son Mike, who served the local department. Mike is now a volunteer fireman in Waseca.

I remember back in the 1930's when Jim Holmstead was on our Wettergren Dairy route and how he talked about his dream of someday being in the fire department. His dream came true, as he served for 25 years with the St. Peter Fire department. Jim is now a retired postman.

Fire Destroyed A Part Of St. Peter's History ✍

Every hamlet, town and city since the beginning of time has suffered the ravages of fires. I am sure most of you read about the great fire of Rome, A. D. 64 when Nero played his fiddle while fire destroyed buildings in 10 of the 14 wards in that historic city.

We are all familiar with the burning of Chicago in Nov. 1871 when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern that led to the devastation of the "Windy City."

St. Peter has had its share of fires, beginning with the burning of the north wind at the state hospital (Regional Treatment Center) in Nov. 1880. According to Dr. William Erickson's book, This Great Charity, 18 residents perished in the fire and another six people were never accounted for.

Perhaps the biggest fire in St. Peter was on Nov. 15, 1887, when a fire started in the stable of the Northwestern Hotel on Front and Park Row streets, where DeBliecks' St. Peter Building Center now stands.

According to Dr. Doniver Lund's book on the history of the First National Bank, part of three business blocks were destroyed. The First National Bank was then located in the middle of the 200 block east on Minnesota Ave. The bank was temporarily quartered in the Nicollet Hotel lobby until the new bank was constructed in later years.

In 1887, the original First Lutheran Church across from Minnesota Square (Swede) Park was lost by fire. On Easter Sunday, May 13, 1962, the second First Lutheran Church was hit by lightening which caused a fire that completely destroyed the church.

The old Lincoln school that stood west of Judge Laumann's residence now Mark Ahlstrom's was destroyed by fire in 1913.

Many old timers remember the Methodist Church on Fifth and Park Row streets that stood directly north of the old high school, now the Community Center, burning to the ground on Jan. 6, 1929.

The Engesser Brewery, one of St. Peter pioneer businesses, built on 1856, was gutted by fire on May 1, 1940.

The Scandia Grove Lutheran Church in Norseland was destroyed by fire on July 5, 1976.

The Traverse Farmer's Elevator was destroyed by fire on Aug. 21, 1937. Many businessmen and city officials commented that the burning of the elevator would be the end of Traverse. Naturally, St. Peter would have liked for the elevator to relocate to St. Peter.

The State Hospital barn burned to the ground on July 30, 1946, immediately after the evening milking. The St. Peter emen were able to save the other buildings in the area.

In 1967, the State Hospital's warehouse caught fire. According to the firemen, this was a difficult fire to extinguish ecause of the location of the fire.

A draft protester set fire to the draft records at the old St. Peter Armory on Jan 5, 1970. This was followed by a fire the ext evening at Gustavus Adolphus College, which destroyed all of the auditorium except the walls. A quick response saved e rest of the campus buildings.

Kasota has had its share of fires. The Presbyterian Church and the Kasota Elevator on old Highway 5 were also victims the ravages of fire.

A Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God,
Wherever flames that rage;
Give me strength to save someone's life,
Whatever be the stage.

Help me embrace a little child,
Before it is too late;
O, save an older person,
From the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
And hear the weakest shout;
And quickly and efficiently,
To put the fire out,

I want to fill my calling,
And give the best in me;
To guard my every neighbor,
And to protect his property.

And if, according to your will,
I have to lose my life;
Please bless with your protective hand,
My children and my wife.

etters

arry Kramer praised for support

o the Editor:

St. Peter lost one of it's premier business persons and volunteers when Harry Kramer passed away a few weeks ago.

Harry was always the first to volunteer his services, whether it was to the Chamber of Commerce, Shoreland Country lub, Ambassadors, or Last Man's Club.

As a businessman, he was a successful because his philosophy was to give the customer good, friendly service and uality goods at a reasonable price, and then you won't have to worry about competition down the road.

Harry has left his mark as a St. Peter supporter.

Health Care Centers

To the Editor:

The St. Peter area people should be thankful for the wonderful service rendered by the Community Hospital Health Care Center, Grandview Good Samaritan Center and Nancy's Comfort Care.

I have personally observed each of these institutions over the years as to their operations and personal service. In each institution, I have had relatives and friends as residents, and I know as we grow older we are not the easiest people to please.

Recently, I was the Conservator for a resident at Grandview. I learned that the nurses and aids not only prayed for him, but with him, which gave him great comfort in his final days.

Again, we can boast that "you find a little bit of heaven in St. Peter".

Athletics valued in decades old newspaper clippings

To the Editor

With the Boys' High School State Basketball Tournament beginning this week, here is an example of the value of athletics pertaining to a St. Peter resident. This article is from a newspaper dated half a century ago and was mailed to me by a friend in outstate Minnesota.

"Billy" Morris about whom the story is written, has made his home in St. Peter since his marriage to Jeanette Johnson 45 years ago.

An Example of the Value of Athletics

If you want an example of what athletics can do for a boy, take the case of Billy Morris, a 17 year old lad who has just completed a successful season as Mankato's High School basketball captain.

A year ago, Billy was quiet, retiring fellow a boy who possessed a pleasant personality, but apparently didn't have the qualities a leader needs. He was seldom in the limelight, and his activities in basketball, as well as other athletics, consisted principally of those connected with the ordinary reserve.

Being captain made almost an entirely new boy of him. He started the season practically on a par with the rest of the candidates. Yet, when the year ended he was outstanding and he put a great finishing touch to his career by playing his most brilliant game in the heartbreaking 29-28 defeat the Scarlets took at the hands of Mechanic Arts High School of St. Paul in the first round of the state tournament.

In that game, he was a star among stars, the high point maker for his team and one of the outstanding all around performers on the floor. It was his leadership that helped the boys play one of their usually heady games against the strong St. Paul quintet; and his own performance inspired his mates.

As coach Louis Todmem said after the game, the coolness of Morris showed, plus, incidentally, the calmness of the new captain, Chuck Hoerr, was greatly responsible for making the Scarlets look like sure winners until the very last second of the battle that the Mechanics won by a "hope" shot.

Basketball Past And Present

Since all the hoopla and second-guessing is over for the past basketball season, I should like to express my feelings bout how the game has changed over the years.

First of all, the present game is a combination of hockey, football, and wrestling. In years past, when the great "Whitey" koog was an All-American while at the University of Minnesota and later a pro with the great Minneapolis Laker teams, ere were very few elbows flying. Palming the ball was not allowed, and referees enforced the rule addressing how many eps could be taken without dribbling the ball.

The four-class high school league is a farce compared to the good old days when the smaller schools would win their are of the state tournaments at Williams Arena. Before that, Carleton College hosted state tournaments and that was by vitation only.

Kasota teams went to the state in 1920 and 1926, while St. Peter went in 1922, 1923, and 1995. Those were the days of e center jump after each basket, and there was no 10-second rule to get the ball across midcourt.

In 1926, Gaylord defeated Gilbert 13-9 for the state title and went on to the national tourney in Chicago, where it dvanced to the semifinals.

This was quite a contrast compared to the Wabasso 117-113 overtime game at this year's state tourney March 21.

In the good old days, one player could be designated to shoot all the free shots. March 5, 1923, "Tuddie" Lindenberg ored all of the Gustavus basketball team's points against St. John's, as he made seven of seven free throws and 10 field oals.

This was recorded by Robert Ripley in his Believe it or Not column in later years. Gustavus in those days had many St. eter and Kasota players, including "Connie Gustafson (Attorney Bill's uncle), Art Peterson, Jim Clark, Archie Skalbeck and ewey Lurth from St. Peter, and Ken and brother Ray Stockton from Kasota.

One of the better rule changes was the elimination of the center jump after each basket being replaced by the opposing am having five seconds to get the ball in play. The three-point field goal also made the game more inciting.

Can you imagine when in girls' basketball, six players played the game and two stationary guards couldn't go beyond e center line? No wonder that in some of the games the points total was low. The score seldom reflected 15 points by both ams.

I personally believe that the powers to be at the state high school level should return the tournament to two classes at e most. It is true that more players can participate with the present setup, but the fans lose when the tournament becomes o watered down.

aseball Lore, Then And Now

On December 30, 1907, a committee consisting of two senators and baseball executives confirmed that Abner oubleday, a former Union Army officer, was the founder of the game of baseball and that Cooperstown, New York, was e birthplace of the game.

First, here are some statistics about items used in playing baseball:

A baseball is a spherical object that has been made of cork, rubber, and yarn: and now is covered with cowhide. It is 7 7 1/4" in circumference, and 2.86" to 2.94" in diameter. The cover is sewn together with 216 stitches, usually red in color, women in Taiwan.

The pitcher's rubber is 66' 6" from home plate. Home plate is a five sided rubber object measuring 17" by 17". An ash ood bat with maximum length of 42" is used by the offensive player to hit the ball that is thrown by pitchers such as the te Walter Johnson, Bob Feller, and Nolan Ryan (who consistently threw over 100 miles per hour).

Spalding Sporting Goods was the official maker of baseballs for 100 years. Today, the contract belongs to the Rawlings Company.

Players are paid enormous sums of money to hit the baseball sphere out of the ballpark.

In 1927, Babe Ruth, New York Yankee great, hit 60 home runs. The following year he requested the mere sum of a $100,000 salary. Col. Jake Ruppert, owner of the Yankees, said,

"My gosh, Babe. That's more money than the President of the United States makes in a year."

The Babe, never at a loss for words, responded by asking the colonel, "How many home runs did the President hit?" The Babe settled for $80,000.

This spring, Gary Sheffield, outfielder for the Florida Marlins, signed a six year contract for the sum of $61 million with several incentives added to the contract.

Locally, John A. Johnson, while editor of the Herald before being elected to the governorship, recommended to the St. Paul Saints a farm boy from Ottawa by the name of Roger Denzer, who was pitching for the St. Peter town team. The Saints were associated with the American Association. Roger pitched against Toledo in relief, which impressed the St. Paul owners so much that he was immediately signed by the St. Paul team. Later, he pitched for the Chicago White Sox and New York Giants.

Very few people remember that Gov. John A. Johnson, while governor of the state, hired William F. "Billy" Williams in 1905 as his aid. He served as an aid for 52 years under 14 governors.

"Billy" was of African American and Native American descent. He was a great amateur baseball player who was denied a professional contract because of his ethnic background. His friends urged him to disclaim his African ancestry and pass as a full blooded Native American.

I remember sitting in the home of George Nutter after meeting "Billy" when he told his story. He said "There was no way he was going to disclaim his African American heritage to play professional baseball."

Fifty years ago, Jackie Robinson broke the race barrier, but African American's in baseball still have a way to go to gain equality, as only 17 percent are signed to major league rosters. However, in basketball, 80% are African American and in football 67% of the players are African American.

I shall close with the final verse of "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright.
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light.
And somewhere men are laughing and somewhere children shout;
But there is no joy in Mudville, mighty Casey has struck out.

Shriners Bring Love And Laughter To Many ✍

Everybody loves a parade. Everybody loves a circus. Many people of yesteryear vividly remember their first visit to the Shrine Circus in Minneapolis.

On Saturday, Shrine members of Zuhrah Temple will converge on Le Sueur, where the Ho Ho Shrine Club of St. Peter, Le Sueur and surrounding towns will host the spring Zuhrah Ceremonial at the Le Sueur Community Center. Several candidates throughout Minnesota will become nobles in a pageantry ceremony. The parade begins at 1:30 p.m.

On Friday, the day will begin with clinic applications at no cost to the parents at the Central Community Center for children under 18 years of age with orthopedic problems of bones, muscles or joints.

The first Shrine Temple named Mecca was founded in New York City 70 years ago. Today, there are 191 Shrine Temples th 635,000 members. The first Shrine Hospital was founded in Shreveport, LA in 1922.

Since the first Shriners Hospital opened in 1922, the Shriners have supported what has come to be known as the 'orlds Greatest Philanthropy." The Shrine and its 22 hospitals, while maintaining separate legal and financial identities, are ked through the Shrine's continuing support of Shriner's hospitals.

Presently, there are 22 Shrine hospitals throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama Canal Zone. Three of e hospitals contain burn units; they are in Galveston, TX; Cincinnati, OH; and Boston, MA.

It is interesting to note that 96% of the Shriners' Hospital budget is spent on direct support of the hospitals. The Shrine ospital as the Masonic Cancer Hospital on the campus of the University of Minnesota receives no federal assistance.

In their first 74 years of operation, the 22 hospitals have compiled the following statistics, (1) to date, the world nowned hospital system has treated more that 552,000 children; and (2) since 1922, Shriners Hospitals have spent more nt $3.4 billion operating their 22 hospitals and approximately $770 million on construction and renovation for the spitals.

The hospitals are supported by gifts, interest from endowment funds, fund raising events and an annual hospital sessment paid by every Shriner. One of the most prominent Shriners is former President of the United States, Gerald Ford. oble Ford was first introduced to Shrinedom while and all American center at the University of Michigan.

Noble Ford played in the East West Shrine game in the 1930's. He later took the York Rite degree in Masonry in order to come a Shriner. The other route a Mason can take to become a Shriner is through the Scottish Rite.

In Minnesota, the name of Curt Carlson appears as one of the most prominent Shriners. Noble Carlson was very active the Zuhrah horse patrol in his younger days. The Zuhrah horse patrol will be one of the 33 Shrine units in the parade in Sueur.

St. Peter is the home of two nationally known Shriners. Gordon "Joe" McCloskey, who has served as president of the hrah Shrine Circus committee, is now the president of the Shrine Circus Association of North America.

Joe was the drum major of Zuhrah's drum and bugle corp chat was named national champions. His boyhood friend who ed across Minnesota Square(Swede) Park was Johnny Herriott.

Johnny Herriott is known as the world' greatest ringmaster and animal trainer. Johnny is an active Shriner. He and his fe Mary Ruth took their marriage vows in the center ring at the Shrine Circus at the Kansas City Auditorium and drew tional publicity.

The festivities of the day will end with a steak/hamburger fry from 4-7p.m. at the Le Sueur Community Center.

emories Of A Grand Old Creamery

Recently, one of St. Peter's landmarks bit the dust when the St. Peter Creamery, built in 1907, was demolished.

When the Willow Lawn Creamery of Traverse which was built in 1890 and was the oldest of 13 creameries in Nicollet unty burned to the ground in 1906, a group of St. Peter businessmen decided to build a creamery in St. Peter in order to pture the farmer trade.

However, the Willow Lawn Creamery under the leadership of Bill Pell, was not to give up the battle and an new eamery structure was built immediately.

The St. Peter Community Cooperative under businessmen Phil Dick Sr., Charlie Jackson, banker H. L. Stark and others ced to complete the St. Peter structure before the Traverse Willow Lawn builders did.

Willow Lawn regained its patrons, thus forcing the St. Peter Creamery to take over the buying stations at Ottawa, Kasota, Cleveland and Pettis Station.

The St. Peter Creamery operation was taken over by Senius Nelson (Gladys Bolstad's father), who operated the business until 1930 when Soren and Anna Smidt and daughters Helen, Eleanor (Red) and Vera (Pete) arrived from Dundas. Soren Smidt learned the buttermaking business in Denmark as did Senius Nelson.

Helen Ewalt and sister "Pete" worked for their father as bookkeepers during the years prior to World War II. Helen reminded me recently how she saved my hide more than once when brother Bud would have me at a disadvantage during verbal and physical disagreements prior to World War II days.

In 1935, my parents, who were the owners of the Wettergren and Sons Dairy, expanded their business when they leased a new addition next to the Smidts' creamery. This was a good move, as the milk bottling plant was compatible with the creamery operation. Both used the same refrigeration, boiler system, and other equipment.

According to the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee, Soren Smidt showed his love for the Minnesota Valley by using the name Minnesota Valley Butter and displaying scenes of the early settlers, a log cabin, a stockade and Native Americans on his butter cartons.

One of the summer employees at the creamery was "Pete's" future husband, Byron "Lefty" Lutz, who was a Gustavus Adolphus College baseball pitcher during the school year. "Lefty" had previous experience in creameries, since he had worked as a youth for his father in the Minnesota Lake Creamery.

I remember "Lefty" subbing at Smidt's Sanitary Creamery in Montgomery also.

In 1943, during the war years, the Smidts sold the creamery to St. Peterites Stan and Gloria Davis. Stan converted the creamery, which was the last of the 13 creameries in Nicollet County to manufacture butter to a milk drying plant. The operation is now called Davisco Ingredients with headquarters in Le Sueur.

Stan, now retired, kept the business a family operation with son Mark as the CEO, Mark and Mary's sons are deeply involved in the operations, with plants in Le Sueur, Nicollet, Lake Norden, S.D. and Jerome Idaho, where they have the largest cheese factory under one roof in the world.

Martin is general manager of the Davisco Food Ingredients headquarters in Le Sueur. Mitch is the general manager of the Le Sueur Cheese operation, and Matt is quality control supervisor at the Le Sueur plant. Jon is the general manager of the plant at Jerome, Idaho. Tom Rydeen son-in-law is the production supervisor at the Le Sueur operation. Don Lindstrand, maintenance supervisor, has been with the Davisco operation for over 50 years.

The historic St. Peter Creamery original building is now history, but the memories will long live in the minds of those who worked there.

Revisiting Governor's Homes

Willis A. Gorman: The Gorman building, a three story structure, stood where the old Carnegie Public Library now stands at 429 S. Minnesota Ave. It housed the I.O.O.F. and Masonic Lodges, offices and living quarters. The building is now owned by Bungum realty.

Henry A. Swift: He built the large house at the northwest corner of the intersection of S. Minnesota Ave. and College Avenue (formerly Cedar Street) just north of Minnesota Square Park. It was called the Ives' house for years, because Gov. Swift's daughter married G.S. Ives and lived there. For many years the house was owned by Harry and Emma LaDue and later by Bert and Mary Gibbs. It is now an apartment complex.

Horace M Austin: This is the house that was formerly occupied by Hilton E. Miller. It is located at 312 S. Seventh St. The house was formerly occupied by Hilton's father E.E. Miller, his mother Edith Helen Sackett; J.B. Sackett and wife and Horace stin and wife. When the house burned, it was replaced by the old First Lutheran parsonage. The late Steve Koble, rchased the house shortly before his recent death.

Andrew R. McGill: The house was located at 702 N. Fourth St. It was once owned by Albert Gierke. It was practically uilt when owned by the Jones family, parents of Oswald Jones. Before that time, Charles Feldman, father of Mrs. M. R. vis, owned and occupied the house. It is now an apartment complex.

John A. Johnson: After his marriage to Nora Peterson, John Johnson lived in his mother's house at 200 N. Washington e. the house north of Johnson's Park at Broadway and Washington Aves. The house was owned by John Sauer for many ars. In 1904, the Johnson's built a house at 418 North Street. George and Stella Olsen purchased the house from the hnson's when they moved to St. Paul just after John A. Johnson became Governor of Minnesota. The house is now owned Adrian and Pei Loh Lo.

avis-Pell Clan Take The "Windy City" By Storm

The first week in August, when Mark and Mary Davis and Bill and Sis Pell took their monthly trip to Wrigley field, the ome of the Chicago Cubs, they decided to take their children and grandchildren along.

The trip was planned under the auspices of Marty Davis and Lee Pell to accommodate 30 people, among whom was the year old of Tom and Julie (Davis) Rydeen. She was the youngest member of the group. Two motorhomes and a van nsported the clan to Chicago for the long weekend.

Wrigley Field is where the great "Babe" Ruth pointed to the right field bleachers and hit his notorious home run off tcher "Charlie" Root in the third game of the 1932 World Series.

Ruth's home run, which won the game for the New York Yankees, came in the fifth inning on a two strike pitch.

Phil Cavaretta, all star first baseman for the Cubs, has a St. Peter connection his father's cousin was "Jimmy" Cavaretta, ho had a small dairy operation in back of what once was the Peavey Elevator. He was a patron of the St. Peter Creamery, wned by Stan Davis the last 55 years.

Can you imagine the Davis-Pell clan singing along with the great Cub announcer, Harry Caray, “Take Me Out to the llgame” during the seventh inning stretch?

Incidentally, Harry and Phil "Scooter" Rizzuto each claimed he coined the expression "Holy Cow." Actually, the late alsey Hall, Minnesota Twins announcer, coined the expression long before Harry and Phil were in the broadcasting field.

One of the elder persons in the Davis-Pell clan said the "Bad News Bears" who played at the Astrodome in Houston had othing on the St. Peter clan, which created more excitement that then famous 1887 Chicago fire that was sparked when rs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern.

The clan saw history in the making when Ryune Sandberg, the great Chicago second baseman and a sure Hall of Famer hen he becomes eligible, hit two homers and a double, and drew a walk for a Cub victory.

The Davis-Pell names have been synonymous with baseball for over a century. Roger Denzer of Ottawa was a cousin of ogan Denzer, Mary Davis father. Roger was pitching for the St. Peter town team when Herald editor John A. Johnson rranged a tryout for him with the St. Paul Saints in the American Association. From the Saints, he went to the Chicago White ox and later the New York Giants before retiring and returning to the family farm in Ottawa.

Bill Pell's mother's brother, Orville Ridd of Le Sueur, was noted as a great pitcher. Orville was drafted by the St. Peter own Team that won the state tourney in 1933. All the Davis-Pell boys played either high school, American Legion or town am baseball at sometime or another.

The Davis-Pell Clan

Bill Pell and Lee Pell were members of all state team in 1957 and 1983, respectively, Lee Pell and Marty Davis played in the state high school tournament 25 years after Bill and Mark played in the state tourney in 1957.

One of the highlights of the Wrigley Field trip was that Marty Davis took his nephew Logan down by the Cub's dugout in the ninth inning, where he hoped to catch a foul ball. Believe it or not. Logan caught a ball in the same aisle that Marty and Ben Pell did 18 years previously. Logan proudly displays the ball on his dresser.

The Davis-Pell clan's trip to Chicago remind me of the year of 1932, when my dad took our Legion team to Nicollet Park in Minneapolis to see the Millers. The players collected Wheaties box tops in exchange for tickets. I am sure the air conditioned vehicles the Davis-Pell clan took this year to Chicago were considerably more comfortable than sitting on milk cases some 65 years ago.

Who knows? With baseball in the Davis-Pell blood, a member of the third generation may hit the big time, and we can all go by bus to watch him play.

Third String Catcher Got His Break In The 1940's:

Casey's Name Nominated to the Minnesota Baseball Hall of Fame

On their 50th wedding anniversary, C. W. "Casey" Dowling and his wife Bonnie were given a laminated poster. The poster depicted the opening of the Sleepy Eye Indians' new baseball park in 1946.

Casey proposed to Bonnie at home plate at the same ballpark in the same year. The picture was sent to the Dowlings by Harold "Chief" Wonson, instructor at Blake High School, who pitched for the Minneapolis Millers and later for the Sleepy Eye Indians.

"Casey" played for the Millers after graduating from the University of Minnesota, and later was a catcher for the Sleepy Eye Indians when "Chief" Wonson was pitching.

According to the late Halsey Hall, former announcer for the Millers and later for the Twins, Casey broke into the Miller lineup when the Millers' regular catcher broke his finger and the second string catcher swallowed his chew of tobacco and was unable to continue in the game.

Casey's name will be submitted to the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998. The Dowlings are now retired and live in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

Casey was the ag instructor at St. Peter High School for 28 years and was active in community affairs. His wife Bonnie owned and operated Bonnie's Apparel for many years. The store was located where the Tulip Tree business now operates. She was the first woman to serve on the City Council since Lillien Cox Gault served as the first woman mayor in Minnesota from 1921 – 1922. She was also on the Chamber Board for several terms and was active in community affairs.

owling Of Today Strikes Memories Of Yesterday

When I take my evening walk and pass Peterson's Recreation and hear the bowling balls hitting the pins, it reminds me the days when the late Don Lindstrand, Ben Holteen, Hilding (Shorty) and Chet Gustafson and I bowled for Schmidt's eer in the Merchant League in 1946.

We were good enough to win the league title. Schmidt's Brewery offered us a beer party for our accomplishment.

I remember the late Ray Peterson, who owned Peterson Recreation with his late brother Vern, telling our sponsors, hmidt's Brewery that we were not beer drinkers. As a result, our sponsor gave us miniature gold bowling balls instead. eedless to say, we had to find a new sponsor the next year – Wettergren Dairy.

To this day, when I walk by the alleys, I can seem to hear the difference in the sound of hitting a strike and hitting a pare.

Our Schmidt team became a traveling team. We bowled on Sunday evenings against teams from Winthrop, Gaylord, rlington, Le Sueur, Le Center and New Ulm.

The late Don Lindstrand would arrange for the competition, as he was well known in those towns, having come from inthrop. (The late Don Lindstrand, by the way, entered the Arlington tournament and came home with a first prize, a $ 00 bill for winning the tournament. That evening he shared his winnings by popping for lunch.)

Later, when the Wettergren Dairy sponsored the team, Ray Stark and Clarence "Pete" Mead would bowl for us whenever couple of us were busy courting our brides-to-be.

I remember I first started bowling in 1937 as a junior in high school. We had the thrill of watching Louie Haney and his ons, Roy and Bud, bowl. Another son, Donnie Haney, who was handicapped, was the official scorekeeper for all the games Peterson's in those days.

In the beginning, father Otto Peterson and his sons Ray and Vern had built two alleys. In 1937, Peterson's put in another wo alleys. It seemed that it took a couple of years for the new alleys to get "broke in," as bowling was described in those ays.

Some of us saw Henry "Hank" Krohn and Maurice Burg bowl a coveted 300 game. Francis "Mutzi" Veith and the late Bill otz bowled a 300 in open bowling. The late Roy Haney bowed a 300 one evening in competition at Mankato. Roy Warning ho was on the same team, bowled a 299 (he missed the ten pin.)

Many of us remember the two-fingered bowling ball, which was used by the late "Willie" Mans and other bowlers of esteryear. In those days, the house (Peterson Recreation) supplied the bowling balls and shoes.

Today, with all the accessories on the hand, wrist and towels, it seems to be a different game. We would wipe the sweat n our pants, which led to a distinctive smell when we met our girlfriends after bowling.

I recall that the late "Augie" Nelson was one of the pinsetters in those days. "Augie" would get mad when someone gave im a hard time and wouldn't set the pins down. Ray Peterson, more than once, would walk down to "Augie" and bribe him ith a half-pint of spirits when bowling was over.

Bob Frazier and Marvin (Muvy) Krohn earned pin money and free bowling while in high school by working for eterson's setting pins.

In 1958, the Wettergren Dairy, sponsored a junior high school team consisting of Tom Bolstad, Larry Skramstad, Art avara, Rich Frey and Leland Mead (now a retired Roman Catholic priest). The won the championship of their class; and hen I took them down to Austin to bowl against a high school team that was the best in Austin who had bowled at Gus oung's bowling establishment. Our team won all three games.

Tom Bolstad, an eighth grader, bowled a 570 series. All of the team members going to Gus and Evelyn Young's estate for one of Evelyn's delicious banquets, consisting of cornish hen and all of the trimmings. The members of the team still talk about it.

These days, with all the automatic pinsetters, scorekeeping, paraphernalia, and air-conditioned buildings, the old-timers say nothing can replace their good old days in a smoke filled bowling establishment.

Recollections Of Elections Past ✍

Recently, I was asked about my recollections of the elections over the last 60 years. Let's start with the presidential races.

In 1916, a former Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes went to bed believing he was the winner, despite the fact that the vote from California was not in. Upon awakening the next morning, he was surprised that Woodrow Wilson was the winner because he carried California.

I am sure many voters today remember the headlines in the Chicago Tribune in 1948, "Dewey Beats Truman." As the colorful Yogi Berra used to say, "It ain't over until it's over." Truman won the election leaving the "Windy City" residents with souvenir copies of the Tribune.

On a Minnesota state level, many voters today recall when Carl Rolvaag defeated the incumbent Elmer Anderson in 1962 by 91 votes. It seems that an issue about a highway construction job turned the tide at the last minute.

The governorship wasn't settled until 1963, during which time both candidates occupied the state capitol, until a court ruling settled on behalf of Rolvaag.

I'm sure old timers remember in 1930 that when the votes were canvassed, the challenger, Charlie Poncin, was a one-vote victor over the incumbent Judge W. G. Laumann. Judge Laumann asked for a recount. After several weeks, Judge A. B. Gislason from New Ulm declared Laumann the winner by a vote of 2,501 to 2,500 – just the reverse of the one-vote margin by Poncin. There were some disputed votes on which the judge had to rule.

About 1950, there was a close vote and reversal in the Nicollet County Coroner's race. A distant township in the county reported that Willis Hoyt defeated incumbent Karl Klein. When the county auditor canvassed the votes, he found just the reverse in that township and Klein won.

According to Nicollet County Auditor Bob Bruns, the closest race of all was in 1972, when Myles Lorenz and Lyle Overson tied in the Third District commissioner race. Overson won by a flip of the coin. On the humorous side, Lyle's wife Joan never became a U.S. citizen, having been born in Canada. Joan's friends told her if Lyle had lost the race, they would have had to flip her over the North Mankato bridge into the cold Minnesota River.

Another humorous election result was when Stan Davis lost after having served many years on the District 508 School Board. His wife Gloria placed the following ad in the Herald: "Stan thanks those who voted for him. I thank those who didn't."

In the City of Saint Peter election in 1965, LaMar Hay, KRBI Radio manager, defeated incumbent Art Cook by five votes. Also, in 1959, I defeated Nick Gorsky from Gustavus Adolphus for alderman (now councilperson) by the margin of five votes.

According to historian, David McGuire, the late Jim Weisgerber is the only person to serve both wards in Saint Peter. His brother Dick also served in the first ward.

Philip Dick, Sr. served as mayor three different terms. His son Philip Jr. also served as mayor. Ed Bornemann served two terms as mayor. His brother Adolph followed him as mayor after Ed's last term.

Doug Pyan served the longest of any mayor for fourteen successful years before losing to Bill Wettergren. My dad arence was appointed and served seven years without opposition. I served five years before resigning to accept the amber manager's job.

Brother Bill served two terms as mayor before losing to councilman "Pete" Rheaume. The late Mel Lurth served the ngest of any alderman. He was alderman for 33 years before being defeated. H. B. "Hank" Seitzer served 32 years as derman.

Pete Rheaume has the distinction of being the only person to file twice for councilman and lose both times to a surprise rite in candidate. He lost by one vote the first time on a recount.

When I am asked by members of the media about my election predictions, I tell them I have picked the winners 92 ercent of the time. I write down my predictions based on a "gut" feeling and listening to the public.

emembering A Fine Businessman

St. Peter lost one of its oldest businessmen a few weeks ago when Leo Runkle passed away. Miles Lunak, shoe cobbler, as the only businessperson up and down the street to surpass Leo in years in business, having come to St. Peter in 1931.

Leo sold his cleaning establishment "Top Cleaners" in Gaylord in 1939, to open Runkle's NuWay Cleaners in St. Peter. eo laughed about not having a credit rating in order to secure the loan to buy the building in the 300 block east and had to turn to the place from whence he came to cash in a few of his certificates on deposit to complete the transaction.

In 1942, Leo married "Evie" Swenson of Kasota, who became not only his wife, but also his business partner, until their tirement in 1994. The Runkles had two sons, David and Dale, who have made a success in the technology field. They had e benefit of learning to hunt and fish under Leo's guidance as an outdoor sportsman.

Leo "the Lion" being the last of the St. Peter Lion's Club Charter members organized in 1946, was the brunt of many ories and jokes. I remember that the late Lion Evald Sjostrand (treasurer of Gustavus Adolphus College for nearly 50 years) oined the phrase, "Not a wrinkle in Runkle's cleaning".

Leo and I both had the advantage of having the help of hearing aids. We would sit at a rear table during meetings and ould turn the speakers off and catch a few winks.

The Runkles were the most accommodating businesspeople. More than once, I would pop a button before a meeting nd have "Evie" come to my rescue. The same could be said for Leo.

If I had a noticeable spill on my trousers, I would go to Leo, who would say, "Go behind that rack of clothes and hand e your pants." The charge would be a cup of coffee sometime.

Leo enjoyed telling the story about how he would go to Montgomery to clean and shampoo the carpets for some of the ohemians. They would not only have coffee for mid morning and mid-afternoon breaks, but all of the other goodies of eir native culture.

Dinner was usually a three-course affair. At the end of the day, the Bohemians would treat Leo with a cold brew. It's no onder he would spend three days at some of the huge houses.

Leo loved to fish and hunt in Canada and northern Minnesota with his companions, Malcolm MacKenzie and Joe eehan. They can attest to Leo's veracity about the big ones. Leo also had pictures in his shop to back up his claims, "The ig one never got away."

Several years ago, when Evelyn Young spoke at Lions, she related how Leo would pick up "Gus" Young's suit in the orning of a basketball game and have it back in time for the game. No wonder "Gus" was noted as the best dressed asketball coach in the MIAC.

The Runkles, as I remember during my nearly 20 years as manager of the chamber, were always the first members to pay their investment and proudly displayed each year's placard on the wall by the cash register.

In closing, the disciple Peter was a fisherman, I hope he has saved a few big ones for Leo.

Holy Cow! St. Peterites Knew Caray

by Ed Lee, St. Peter Herald

Bob Wettergren says his only disappointment about an early 1990 trip to Wrigley Field came when Harry Caray didn't invite St.Peter's Tom Bolstad into the booth to help sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Caray was more than happy to pose for a picture with Bolstad.

"There were 36,000 people at the game that day, and we were the only ones able to get a picture with Harry Caray. "We knew where he was going to be, and we were in the right place at the right time. We did out homework," Wettergren laughed.

Harry Caray and Bob Wettergren, Jr.

During his tenure as St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce manager, paths traveled by Wettergren and Caray crossed on several occasions. Wettergren's baseball-fan status may have had something to do with that, too.

Caray, the longtime St. Louis Cardinals/Chicago Cubs announcer, died last week at age 77. He had been scheduled for another year of broadcasting -- his first season with grandson Chip at his side in the booth.

One of Wettergren's first contacts with Caray came at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, former home of the Twins, when he was a guest of WCCO broadcaster Halsey Hall.

"To listen to those two days laugh and tell stories was really something," said Wettergren.

Caray made the phrase "Holy Cow!" famous, but Hall was the one who actually coined it, Wettergren said.

And there's one more St. Peter connection, relating to something else Hall often said: Gluek Beer was a sponsor for the Minneapolis Miller games, which is named for the Arthur Gluek family who donated $100,000 to Gluek Park at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center.

Recollections About Old School Buildings

Gym triggers memories

When I take my five-day-a-week, two-mile walk with many other people as I have done for the past 11 years at the St. Peter Central Community Center gym, my memories go back to the days when we called the building "the high school."

In 1932-1933, we were in seventh and eighth-grades at the old Central School, now the Arts and Heritage Center. We were called "Ethel Bennett's Cadets" and would march over to the high school gym for our weekly drill in preparation for the parents-teachers final meeting in the spring.

Because I was the smallest kid, I would be at the front of the unit. One day, I made the mistake on going right instead of left and found myself marching alone in the wrong direction. My mark in Bennett's history class went from a B to a D on the next report card.

As still happens today in St. Peter when we want new educational facilities, a referendum was voted on for the new gh school with the results being 889 yes votes and 359 nay. The cornerstone was laid on August 4, 1926, at 7:30p.m. The st of the school, including a new boiler plant, was $ 134,293.02. The following scripture was read at the laying of the rnerstone: "There is that scattereth; and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet; but it tendeth to overty" (Proverbs 11:24).

Dr. Conrad Peterson, vice president at Gustavus Adolphus College, gave the main address at the dedication on February , 1927. Ruth Snyder Larson remembers being one of the high school students who marched into the new school in early ebruary of 1927 from the old high school that was built in 1907.

The opening of the new high school meant St. Peter was blessed with two new school buildings. The cornerstone for hn Ireland building had been laid in 1924, with the school opening on September 7, 1926, about six months before the gh school was dedicated.

During the construction of the high school gym, the high school basketball team played in the John Ireland gym. The hn Ireland gym was the place where St. Peter had the distinction of defeating the Gaylord basketball team, which was the innesota state champion and national semifinalist in 1926.

According to the St. Peter Herald, St. Peter High School defeated Henderson 24-10 in the first game played in the new ym on February 2, 1927, before an overflow crowd.

While I was in high school, I remember watching the 1932 and 1938 boys' basketball teams win the District 13 hampionships.

This was the same gym in which I was a cheerleader and gymnast for four years. On our gymnastics team, Stan Davis, ny Hein, Dick McCullum, Arne Langsjoen and I are the only ones still living. Arne and I both went on to Gustavus, where e both lettered in the same sport.

I remember taking a class from Julia Nolan in typing, shorthand and bookkeeping in the new facility from 1934 – 1938. iss Nolan often reminded the typing class of the trophy that was proudly displayed in recognition of Phyliss (Carlton) umphrey winning the state typing championship in 1931.

I needed to upgrade my report card so I instigated a birthday party for Miss Nolan. My mother baked a cake and the rest the students chipped in for the ice cream. I believe this helped me graduate. My high school days were completed in 938 when we received our diplomas while seated on the stage.

Can you imagine that the first high school was on the top floor of the old Central Annex built in 1871, and is now the rts and Heritage Center? Can you imagine what memories we will share at our 60th class reunion in July?

Today, however the building serves its purpose by providing a place for young and old to get their exercise and attend asses.

irst Schools At St. Peter And Traverse Are History Lessons

. Peter's first school

In 1860, the St. Peter Tribune recorded the first school in St. Peter. One of the best was the school located in the first piscopal Church of the Holy Communion, built in 1857, that stood where the parish hall now stands at 118 N. Minnesota venue. The 21 by 41 wooden two story building housed the church and the school.

Because the Rev. Edward Livermore and Harriet Dodd (the wife of Captain Dodd, founder of St. Peter) were well-lucated Eastern teachers, Hannah O'Brien, according to the article in the St. Peter Herald Diamond Jubilee, attended the hool, along with several other Roman Catholic children.

Listed among the 25 students were William A. Pell, one of the first-born white children in Nicollet County, and John A. Johnson, who received their limited education at the school. Johnson became the fifth governor from St. Peter and was not only the first Minnesota born governor to occupy the present Minnesota State Capital building in 1906.

The church bell was not only rung for the parishioners and the school children, but also for the death of every President of the United States since 1857.

When the present church was built in 1870, the bell from the first church was installed in the new church building. The first church building was relocated two blocks away on Park Row (on the property now owned by Gilbert Voss.)

The building was then converted in John Sheehan's blacksmith shop, later owned by Jim Dadey (as indicated in the picture, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.)

With the assistance of Ione Johnson (same name as her fathers), I will delve into the history of District No. 3 in Traverse Township, located on Highways 15 and 19 north of the John Westman farm, where Don and Ruth Wenner now live.

CITY SHOEING SHOP

*City Shoeing Shop, St. Peter, MN, ca. **1911**.*
John Sheehan, propietor. Former Episcopal Church,
St. Peter's first school, conducted by the Rev. Edward Livermore.
Once attended by Governor John A. Johnson.

After the first school was burned to the ground in 1910, classes were temporarily held in the Traverse Township a few blocks down the road from the elevator.

The new school built in 1911, was in existence until 1947. It was then consolidated with District No. 508, St. Peter. Bill Pell and his sister, Morna Traffas, were among the students who attended the school, where Sig Livingston taught.

The building was moved to St. Peter, were it was relocated east of the Nicollet County Courthouse parking lot and was converted into a duplex.

Johnson mentioned some of the families who attended the Traverse School. Some of the family names that we remember were the Westmans, Gilbertsons, Wrights, Parsons, William Schmidts, Peter Schmidts, Durlands, Pells, Hills, Albin Andersons, Thompsons, Andrew and Phil Wolfes, Hergerts, Pehrons, Tripletts, Lunds, Baumbergers, Lindbergs, John Andersons, Wettergrens, Molines, Bills, Briggs, Karl Johnsons and Art Johnsons.

Teachers remembered are Lillien Cox Gault, daughter of Judge E. Julien Cox, who later became the first woman mayor in Minnesota of St. Peter in 1921 – 22; Miss Johns; Ella Tammy Weber; Madeline Poncin Peters; Flora Ritt Baker; and Gertrude Klowcow.

When Lillien Cox Gault taught at Traverse, she would take the train or walk the tracks if the trains weren't running. She always kept a can of pepper in her pocket to protect her from the wolves. After the passing of her husband Andrew, she said the "Wolfe" family finally caught up to her when she married Pierce Wolfe.

I remember when my mother, who was in Anna Hansel's normal class in 1914, substituting in District No. 3. Formally mother was a teacher at the North Star School in District No. 23, Oshawa, and in District No. 65, New Sweden.

I also remember when the teachers were responsible for making fires and disposition of the ashes.

Johnson, now living in Peterson, Iowa, wrote and stated that "The school was so cold in the winter that most of the morning was spent in the basement where we practiced spelling and arithmetic."

When I transferred form Traverse to Central School in 1931, where they had indoor facilities and running water I thought I was in heaven.

arl 'Chuckie' Schmidt Will Be Missed But Not Forgotten

Two weeks ago, Carl W. "Chuckie" Schmidt, one of St. Peter's all-time great philanthropists, passed away. Chuckie, as he as known to his friends, made no bones about his father being a saloon-keeper and his mother a domestic worker. nuckie always acknowledged the fact that his father was known as "Humpy" by his friends because of his physique.

A few years ago, Joe Volk and Chuckie toured Front, (Cow), Main and Third streets with me for my "Down Memory ane" stories. I remember my mother telling how Chuckie got his start as a youngster selling pencils. Mother stayed at eldmans' while in high school and became acquainted with Chuckie, who lived across the street.

Chuckie always said, "Your mother was the most beautiful lady in St. Peter." She always used Chuckie as an example of hat you can do with determination and fortitude.

While touring Front Street, Chuckie mentioned that he, Carl Feldman and Carl Jensen were known as the "Three usketeers." Needless to say, they all did exceptionally well in the business world. I remember Chuckie telling me that, hen he was in a business class at Gustavus, the professor gave each student play money to invest, saying that at the end of e school year he would grade them as to their success in the financial world. Needless to say, Chuckie ended up with a 0" on the investment. He came a long way since then.

During my 55 years in the business world, I was approached many times by someone who needed a handout. If I ouldn't provide it, I could always bank on Chuckie, since he often stopped at the Wettergren Dairy or Chamber office to earn if anyone needed assistance.

In 1952, when I was chairman of District 24 to raise money for the Masonic Cancer Hospital at the U of M, Chuckie set e pace with his generous contribution.

He and wife Verna, although childless, were interested particularly in the welfare of children. They were a leading pair their contributions to the Shrine Hospital for crippled children over the past 60 years.

Chuckie had eyesight problems and appreciated the services at the Mayo Clinic -- and the clinic appreciated his ontributions. I remember visiting with him one day when he showed me many awards from the Mayo Clinic and Shrine ospital that graced his fireplace mantel.

Chuckie's love for the outdoors was shown by the land he turned over to the Department of Natural Resources for the ature hunters and fisherman.

ere are a couple of interesting additions to Chuckie's Story.
With the passing of Chuckie, Stacia O'Brien Gleason is one of the very few people alive who remembers Gov. John A. ohnson's funeral on Sept. 24, 1909.

The late Gipp Ludcke, who also graduated from St. Peter High, Gustavus and later the Harvard School of Business, was the same status as the "Three Musketeers."

I am certain of one thing -- St. Peter will be a better place to live because of what Chuckie did for mankind.

ow Did Governors Homes Fare?

Let's start with the territorial Governor Willis A. Gorman who owned the three-story Gorman building at 429 S. innesota Ave. in beautiful downtown St. Peter before the building was demolished in favor of the Carneige Library. The ld Carneige public library, now owned by John and Lorna Bungum, came out of the disaster as good as any building in the entral business district.

The next governor was Henry A. swift, who built on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and Cedar Street (since the mid-1930's called College Avenue). Later, Swift's son-in-law, Gideon Ives, who became Lieutenant Governor, lived in the house. The roof was replaced, as well as many windows, but is livable.

The Horace M. Austin home is located at 312 S. Seventh St. The house was sold to Irene Miller's grandparents, the J. B. Sacketts, their son-in-law, E. E. Miller and wife Edith took over the premises.

Son Hilton and wife Nina became the owners on the passing of Hilton's parents. The house was later consumed by fire, and the First Lutheran parsonage was moved to the site. The former parsonage suffered considerable damage.

Andrew McGill, the fourth governor from St. Peter, lived at 702 N. Fourth St. The house was once owned by Albert Gierke, later by the in-laws of former superintendent M. R. Davis the Charlie Feldmans. Sorry to say, the McGill house was so severely damaged that it had to be bulldozed.

The John A. Johnson house at 200 N. Washington Ave. is where John A. lived with is mother after moving from their log cabin on the Swede crossroad in Traverse Township. The house, located north of Johnson Park across from the Community Hospital, sustained considerable damage and it is questionable whether it can be fixed.

The Johnson house at 418 N. Third St. now owned by Adrian and Psi-Loh Lo, suffered damage to the front porch that was added on when Attorney George T. Olsen and his wife Stella who once owned and occupied the house. Several windows were also destroyed. However, the Los are living in it.

Farming, Then And Now

Let's take a break from the March 29 tornado and go back to our memories on the farm some 70 years ago.

Many of us recall when the spring crop was planted by using a team of horses pulling a single-row planter. It was customary for the father to apprentice his son the knack of planting straight rows as his father had taught him.

It was hoped, as is the case today, that the corn be planted by May 15 to beat the fall freeze. I remember the plowing, dragging and discing necessary to prepare the ground for the planting.

In those days, the farmer didn't have the advantage of corn varieties or the chemicals that are used today. Many remember the single-row cultivator pulled by a team, and later, the double-row cultivator pulled by three horses.

When the corn was ready for the harvest, the picking was done by hand, the throwing the corn against a bang board on a box pulled my a team. Think of the communication between the horses and the picker. Many of the pickers had sore wrists for the first few days, only to be soothed by Watkins liniment.

The late John Wright, Jim's brother, was known to have picked as much as 100 bushels a day and to have shoveled the corn in the crib before dark. When farmers talked about growing 100 bushels per acre someday, their friends thought they had been in town too long the previous night.

Do you remember when the grain was ripe and ready for threshing? The farmers would cut their grain with a binder, and it would be either shocked, or stacked, for the thresher. The stacker required skill in order to get a perfect stack.

Otto Larson owned and operated a threshing rig for many years, and the farmers would have what were called threshing rings – usually with four or five neighbors in the ring. One could always tell who was operating the separator, as he would have a big red handkerchief around his neck to prevent the chaff and barley beards from going down his neck.

At the dinner tables, many young farm boys would eye the young neighbors girls and eventually married one of them and take over the farm.

Those days, as today, many world and local problems would be discussed at the dinner table. Many of the farmers made to the Minnesota Legislature and served the constituents well.

In the late years, while I was on the farm, a neighbor by the name of Herb Kuehn, Jerry's dad, moved in with a reshing rig and would serve the neighbors. It was customary for the farmers to get together over a case of beer after the arvest to settle the accounts as to who owed whom for the labor.

In the late fall, Otto Larson would end up threshing the State Hospital's many stacks, where the Minnesota Security ospital now stands. One can say, many of the patients were past masters in the art of stacking bundles.

As a kid, I remember Walton Pell purchasing a combine. Farmers, along with businessmen and curious people, gathered the Jack Wilson (Jim's dad) farm on the sand prairie to see how this phenomenal piece of equipment would work in innesota's climate. The grain had to be swathed and then combined, leaving the straw in the fields, later to be bundled nd used for bedding.

With fewer farms, and the changes in the farming, we can only sit back and reminisce about how we used to do it.

ecalling Gustavus Events

With the least equivocation, Evelyn Sponberg Young is the youngest 85-year-old person to speak at the St. Peter Lions lub in the past half-century.

Evelyn is known by many friends as the “Silver Fox,” “White Lightening” or “Mrs. Chips” of Gustavus Adolphus College.

The name Sponberg has been synonymous with Gustavus since 1898, when Evelyn’s parents attended Gustavus dolphus College. Since then, many of their children and grandchildren have graced the halls of GAC.

I remember when Evelyn spoke at the Lions Club several years ago and Dr. Ove Olson, a member rose to inform the roup that Evelyn was one of the best – if not the best – English teachers ever to come out of Gustavus.

Evelyn was teaching at Austin when her late husband Gus Young was the basketball coach. This is where they met. hey eventually married in Evelyn’s home church in New Richland.

While Gus was in the service for four years during World War II, Evelyn taught English and ran the bowling stablishment in Northfield. Northfield was no strange city to Gus as he had played basketball on Carleton’s famous “victory ve” team from 1928 – 32. The team not only won the Midwest Conference, but also defeated most of the Big Ten teams.

In 1949, Dr. Edgar Carlson, then president of Gustavus, Ren Anderson, and Lloyd “Bud” Swanson paid a visit to orthfield to learn if Gus was interested in the basketball coaching position at GAC. Evelyn was asked to come along with us and become manager of the food service.

When meeting with the Gustavus Board, Gus was asked by Chairman of the Board, Dr. Hobart Johnson, “if he thought e could beat Hamline.” Gus’ reply was “If I didn’t think so, I wouldn’t take the job.” He not only dominated Hamline, but lso the MAIC until his retirement in 1957.

Evelyn remained with the Gustavus Food Service until 1981, when she retired to take a part time job with the evelopment department in which she is still involved.

Being a product of the soil, Evelyn became interested in the arboretum project. Her neighbor and good friend, the late ean Melva Lind, was a heavy contributor to the project and an involved patron of the Traverse des Sioux Interpretive enter.

In Evelyn's Lions speech entitled, “Gustavus: As It Was, Is Now and Ever Shall Be”, she paid tribute to several recently departed Gusties, including Dean Melva Lind, Dr. Abbie Arthur, Ren and Sylvia Anderson, Kyle Montague, Lloyd “Bud ”Swanson, the Rev. J. Millard Ahlstrom, Cecil Eckhoff and many other Gusties who made Gustavus Adolphus what it is today.

She spoke of the tornado as the worst catastrophe to hit St. Peter since its beginning in 1854. She noted that it will be a never-forgotten tragedy reminding one of the bird called “Phoenix” that was consumed by fire. Out of the ashes came new life.

Evelyn said, according to Director of Admissions Mark Anderson, Gustavus will have a 1998-99 enrollment of 2,430 students. With 700 first-year students, the largest in history for GAC, she emphasized that people have been generous in their giving to make Gustavus what it is today and what it will be in the future.

When Evelyn spoke at the Lions luncheon, her good friend Natalie Lund and neighbor Charlotte Gregory were driven down to St. Peter by Jan Wettergren Bredeson to attend. Natalie is a member of the Gustavus Library Associates, and Charlotte is the person that gave the St. Peter Public Library 20,000 books at the request of Tom Bredeson, Jan's husband.

Evelyn, Natalie and Charlotte were guests of Bob Wettergren on the St. Peter Public Access show “Know Your Community.” The program has appeared on channel 7 many times in the past few weeks and will be on in the future.

I was told that, when Evelyn celebrated her 85th birthday, someone asked her how it felt to be 85. She replied, “I am not as young as I used to be but not as old as I am going to be.”

Letters To The Editor: ✍

Additions to story about Dodd Road

As a historian and acquaintance of Captain William B. Dodd's grandchildren and great-grandchildren, I wish to comment on the excellent article by Bradly Mariska regarding Dodd Road.

I would like to add that Dodd Road was an 81-mile military road that ran from Kasota (Turrittin's corner) to Mendota. After federal topographical people used the road and found it to be well-built, they coaxed the U.S. Congress into appropriating $3,000 to compensate Dodd for his investment.

Dodd's grave and those of his wife Harriet and two children are located at the rear of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion on the land north of Broadway which he donated to the church when laying out the city of St. Peter

Library location merits discussion

Since I have been one of the most frequent users of the St.Peter Public Library for several years, I suggest the use of the old Central School, now Arts and Heritage center, and the once St. Peter High School, now community center land, for a future city library/community center/Arts and Heritage complex.

I remember that when I was the chamber manager, Charles "Chuckie" Schmidt would stop at the chamber office to discuss a future library and the City of St. Peter. His idea of using Gorman Park for a library was not sketched in stone and I am of the opinion he would favor the site for the complex mentioned.

The parking can be solved by closing Grace Street (Fort Road) from Washington to Fifth Street. The Fort Road is designated to go back of Swanson's tennis courts to Broadway in the very near future.

Also, the City should pick up the St. Peter's Catholic Church-John Ireland property if they decided to relocate. This will give the City a four-block rectangular piece of property in the center of the city.

I know time is of the essence but I do hope the city council will not go off half cocked to be in a hurry to proceed with the projects.

Gorman Park logical for library

Since I have been one of the most frequent users of the St. Peter Library for the past seven years, I suggest using the old Central School, now the Arts and Heritage Center, as the new location for the library.

When I was manager of the Chamber, "Chuckie" Schmidt would often stop at the Chamber office to discuss a future library. Although his idea of using Gorman Park as the site for a new library was not cast in stone, it seems a logical place for a future library, Arts and Heritage Center and Community Center.

The question of parking can be solved by closing Grace Street from Fifth to Washington, since the Fort Road (#5 State Aid Road) is designed to come down Broadway in the very near future.

During the defunct "Downtown Revitalization Project," one might have said that the Fort Road couldn't be closed because a theatre was designed for the intersection of Third and Grace streets. The Fort Road and Grace Streets. The Fort Road and Grace Street are currently one in the same, but that is projected to change.

I would suggest acquiring the properties of St. Peter's Catholic Church and John Ireland School, if they are available, to gain more space for the park and above-mentioned complex.

Instead of a town square, we would have a four-block rectangle. As Robert Browning, the great English poet once said "Grow old along with me; the best is yet to be." We shall see.

New Ulm Park named after St. Peter native

I enjoyed Brian Ojanpa's interview with Stan Manderfeld regarding Johnson Park in New Ulm. However, I would like to add that Johnson Park was named after Fred W. Johnson Park, a realtor who was known as the "Father of the New Ulm Park system." Furthermore, he was a brother of Gov. John A Johnson, the fifth governor from St. Peter. The Johnsons were born and raised in St. Peter.

Researching The History Of City Parks

Since my letter to the editor regarding Carl "Chuckie" Schmidt's suggestion to place the new St. Peter Public Library in Gorman Park, I have had may phone calls saying, "You cannot put a library in Gorman Park as it is designed for a park only."

I did suggest placing the library on the grounds where the Community Center and Arts and Heritage buildings once stood and closing Grace Street between Washington Avenue and Fifth Street for parking. I also suggesting picking up the property of Saint Peter's Church and John Ireland School if it were to go on the market.

I researched the history of the parks under the auspices of our capable Register of Deeds, Kathy Conlon, and I came up with the following information.

On November 10th, the original plat of St. Peter signed by W.A. Gorman, William B. Dodd, Ames Bros. And a few others from the St. Peter Company, designated Market Square and Washington Square as city parks.

Market Square laid east of Front Street across from the Nicollet County Courthouse to Market Street located between Front Street and the Minnesota River.

Washington Square was located at Walnut Street between Fifth Street and Washington Avenue, where St. Peter's Church and John Ireland are located, just south of Gorman Park.

On July 25, 1856, the plans for Washington Square and Market Square were both vacated when Gorman Park was designated as a park on blocks 120 and 121.

There were no restrictions on building a public building in any of the squares or parks mentioned. I remember, as do many other people, the bandstand that stood in the middle of Gorman Park until the late 1930's, when a bandstand was built in the center of Minnesota Square Park.

On July 25, 1856, the dedication of Minnesota Square to the public was altered and modified so that a public building in the nature of a church, courthouse, college, Lyceum, theater, academy, schoolhouse or other public building of a similar nature could be erected on each corner of the square. Also, one building could be erected in the center of the square. However, no such building could be erected in said square until it had been granted in writing by the Saint Peter Company.

Many, I am sure, remember Washington School being in the southwest corner of Minnesota Square for several generations.

The bandstand in the center of Minnesota Square was eventually converted to a pavilion at the suggestion of City Alderman Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth, who designed the building.

For the sake of history, the bandstand, which later became the pavilion, was built on top of boulders from Minnesota Square. The stone around the pavilion was taken form the old Nicollet County Jail, which was located on Washington and Broadway Avenues.

A few years ago, the base of the pavilion was repaired with cement that covered the stone, which was deteriorating.

Unfortunately, for 114 years celebrations couldn't be held in Minnesota Square if beer was going to be sold. According to some old timers, if beer was sold on the property, the land would revert back to the original property owner.

On researching the matter, we found out that the property owner happened to be the St. Peter Company.

Twenty-eight years ago, on a city council vote of 5 – 1, the Independence Day celebration was allowed in Minnesota Square Park.

And for the last several years, the public, to the tune of 10,000 or more people, have really enjoyed celebrating the Fourth of July in Minnesota Square Park.

Information on the parks can be found in the Nicollet County Register of Deeds Office, courtesy of Kathy Conlon.

Letter To The Editor:

Local candidate a good selection - Chief Matt Peters

I would like to compliment the members of the St. Peter Common Council for their choice of police chief, Matt Peters of Janesville. The city has been burnt several times in the recent years by hiring city administrators from Arizona and Texas. The city has also gone outside of St. Peter to hire six financial managers in the past 15 years.

Ron Bresnahan, who worked for the city as a part-time employee in the summer, was offered the financial manager job while still at St. John's University, but he declined as he wanted to finish college. Two years later, he applied for the position but was second choice.

Think of the money it cost the taxpayers to bring in those six people for the position. The chamber, when searching for my successor, went to Florida for a C.E.O. who assured the people of a downtown mall. The cost of moving her here for 19 months was very expensive.

P.S. Roger Headrick, former Viking football team president and part-time owner, shouldn't feel too slighted that the lock was changed on his office door before he could retrieve his personal items.

I spent 20 years with the chamber and was to work part-time at the chamber office in the area of tourism. When I arrived to greet my successor, I learned that the lock had already been changed by the president of the chamber.

I was told I could keep my key as a souvenir. I was hired in 1973 during the days when a handshake and your word ere your bond.

oungblom, A Legend In The Community

The passing of Carl Youngblom a few months ago left a void in the community. Carl, a native of Lafayette-Bernadotte mmunity, will always be remembered as a person who cared for his family, church and community.

He was a person who shared his wealth of knowledge, particularly in agriculture and financing, with people throughout e world. His extended teaching visits to other countries bear this out.

Carl, a disabled veteran from World War II, was proud of his country. In 1995-96, he was commander of the Disabled merican Veterans of Minnesota and was always in demand as a speaker for service clubs and Memorial Day observances.

Carl was a member of Toastmasters and made an excellent master of ceremonies.

We also remember Bill Mallgren as the emcee of the annual Chautauqua Celebration in Gorman Park and Karl Klein, the me for the annual Nicollet County Fair grandstand performances.

Carl Youngblom was the emcee for most of the 40 plus banquets held when I was with the St. Peter Area Chamber of ommerce. He always requested to learn something about the speakers and program well in advance, so he could be dequately prepared.

I believe two of his emcee masterpieces occurred when Roger Erickson and Charlie Boone of WCCO spoke at our amber banquet and when Don Shelby of WCCO spoke at the dedication of the Nicollet County Historical Society useum.

I know of no one that trained to keep their body, mind and spirit in better shape than Carl. He will be missed but not rgotten.

own Memory Lane

lorence and Henry Komatz

The passing of Florence and Henry Komatz will leave a void in the community, as these two St. Peter benefactors will e greatly missed.

Coincidentally, this long-time couple had birthdays on the same day and year. They also passed away in the same year.

The Komatz's first became acquainted with St. Peter when driving through towns. They would stop for Sunday dinner at e historic Nicollet Hotel. Henry and Florence moved to St. Peter in the late 1930's, when Henry became a field man for the llis- Chambers Tractor Co. H. B. Seitzer, owner of Seitzer Implement Co., was one of Allis Chambers' dealers at the time. A w years later, Henry went into the implement business in Fairmont, but he had his eye on returning to St. Peter to start uilding roads.

In 1947, with an overhauled Army surplus caterpillar, he converted a pasture swamp into Veterans Field. As the business rew, he received a contract to build Foss Airport in Sioux Falls, S.D. He won an award for that project.

Henry, later a director of the Nicollet County Bank, never forgot the help, aid and assistance he received from L. J. Bink" Gault, president of the bank, when Henry needed cash to begin his business in 1968. The Komatz firm built the Floyd . Johnson high school football field and track. The first game was played Sept. 6, 1969.

A large amount of the construction cost was donated by Henry in memory of his close friend and fishing partner, Floyd B. Johnson, who once owned and operated Johnson Factory, located on the corner of Minnesota and Broadway avenues.

Henry and Florence were close friends of Rev. Sidney Goldsmith, the headmaster at Shattuck School in Faribault, and Lloyd Hollingsworth, former coach and A.D. at Gustavus Adolphus College. Their son, Tom, attended both schools. Because of his friendship with Hollingsworth, the Komatz Construction Company gave many Gustavus students summer employment.

In 1976, the bicentennial year, Henry and Florence planted 1,776 walnut trees is commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Their daughter, Ann, and her husband, who now owns the estate, expect the trees to be ready for harvest in the year 2016.

Since the Chamber of Commerce was located in Levee Park, Henry, Carl "Chuckie" Schmidt and Dr. B. P. Grimes would stop there many times to shoot the breeze on their way home, which was on the other side of the Minnesota River.

After a round-table discussion on stocks and local and world affairs, someone would ask if there was anyone locally in dire need? If the need was beyond my means, I knew who I could contact.

When we had out drive to remodel and move the former Twin City Federal Band building to LeVee Park, the three benefactors mentioned above gave extra donations, which put the Chamber well over the top. As many will recall, the Chamber bought the TCF building from Erickson's More 4 for only $1.00

Florence Komatz once told me that she was glad that she could usually find Henry at the Chamber of Commerce office, as she often needed him to run some errands before returning home. Indeed, Henry and Florence will be missed, but not forgotten.

In closing, I think it appropriate to repeat that great English poet, Robert Browning, who said " Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be."

Remembering The Old A & W

It was on May 13, 1960 that Jake and Lorraine Campbell of the Welsh country of Judson opened the first and only A & W Root Beer stand in Saint Peter.

The Campbells had five years-previous experience in the fast-food business as owners of a Harmony, Minnesota drive-in. During this time, Jake was also an over the road truck driver hauling merchandise between LaCrosse, Wisconsin and Chicago, Ill.

Buying land from Harold and Laurie Martin and an A & W franchise from Bud Jameson, the Campbells settled in Gardners Court.

By the way, the name A & W is derived from the last names of Roy Allen and Frank Wright. Roy actually started the root beer business in Lodi, CA in 1919. This is the same city where Laurie Martin and her son, Tom, former St. Peterites, now live.

Jake said, “A break in the business occurred when the Gustavus administration no longer required students to purchase meal tickets.” To the delight of the Campbells, the students came by the droves to the A & W drive-in.

When the Campbells started the business in St. Peter, the prices were significantly less, e.g., a small root beer mug was 5 cents, a large mug was 10 cents and children under 5 were served free root beer. In addition, hot dogs were 15 cents, hamburgers were 25 cents and so were the french fries.

Jake and Lorraine were people that the young employees could trust and many would come to them for advice and guidance.

While working at the A & W, Bruce Santelman and his wife, Rosie, began a courtship and eventually married. Bruce and osie are now the owners of the Country Kitchen in Hutchinson and are running a thriving business.

The Campbells had many dedicated employees over the years including Vi Vogt and her three children; Eldor and unice Gulden's five children; Marlys Knutson and her sister, Mitze; Sonny and Betty Meyer's three children; and the Will's ree daughters.

Gary Campbell and his future wife, Mary Nimps, started their courtship at the A & W. Our city librarian, Doug Wolfe pent five years working at the A & W. The Covell girls, Martell girls, Colleen Connor, Bridget Kennedy, and Joey Peterson, e some of the many youngsters who learned their work habits under the direction of Jake and Lorraine.

In 1972, Jake and Lorraine built a new drive-in and installed the dial-o-mike ordering system. This enabled the ampbells to render faster, more efficient service with fewer mistakes.

When Jake and Lorraine retired, the building was eventually converted into a Cantonese restaurant, which was owned nd operated by Tsz Keung, his wife, Hu Ho Lo and their daughters, Shu Wn Lo and Shu Yi. Today, the F & J car lot ccupies the premises selling used cars.

Jake and Lorraine were some of the people who made the Independence Day Fourth of July picnic what it is today. ke, a member of the Riverbend Antique Car Club, St. Peter, New Ulm, and Mankato chapters, was responsible for btaining the antique cares for the parade. He also made nine canopies for shelter in Minnesota Square Park. This was the nd of renting tents. For many years, Lorraine planned the food and organized the servers for the Fourth of July picnic.

Jake, who spent three and a half years in the European theater during World War II, is a 50-year member of the merican Legion and VFW. Lorraine is a member of both of the auxiliaries. When in St. Peter during the summer months, ey are ardent volunteer workers for the above organizations as well as the Union Presbyterian Church and Third Street econds.

Since their retirements, the Campbells have traveled the Alaskan highway at least six times. Lorraine's sister, Ann aulson, is a 50-year pioneer in Alaska. The Campbells have stayed at the governor's mansion in Juneau once when orraine's brother-in-law's brother, Bill Sheffield, was the governor.

The Campbells now make their home in Mesa, AZ, six months out of the year.

ornerstone Box To Be Opened

y Sara Carathers

One little copper box survived the severe damage the March 29 tornado caused the St. Peter's Central Community enter.

Of course it did have 700 pounds of stone on all sides to protect it.

The box, made into a time capsule and sealed inside of the building's cornerstone in August of 1926, weighed about five ounds. A single copper wire wound around it.

The cornerstone was recently salvaged from the community center, which used to be the St. Peter Central High School.

The Kasota stone cube was solid on all sides except for the top, where it was plugged with a red brick and a mortar and nother piece of mortar.

At the opening of the cornerstone on Monday, St. Peter resident Bob Wettergren, 77, helped Mayor Jerry Hawbaker and ity council members use a hammer and chisel to crack open the stone.

After much banging and pounding, the box was lifted from a small nook.

"It's going to take longer to open it than it did to lay it," Wettergren joked.

On the back of the box bore a mark reading "seal free," and the price of the box - $ 2.50.

Wettergren said at the time, the superintendent was M. R. Davis, whose father-in-law Charlie Feldman owned a tin shop. Wettergren thinks the box may have come from Feldman.

As the Kasota stone chips splintered and broke away, Wettergren remembered the past.

"I am very happy to be here today. I remember when that cornerstone was laid," Wettergren said. "It brings back a lot of memories for me."

At the age of 5, Wettergren attended the cornerstone dedication with his mother and brothers and watched the copper box get sealed in the cornerstone.

The cornerstone was located a few feet away from his grandparents' house, and Wettergren said he never forgot it was there.

"Just about everyday I'd go by there, and it rings a bell," he said. "I've walked by it almost everyday for 72 years."

The building later became the Central Community Center.

News clippings from around that time describe unprecedented growth at the high school, and detailed the need for additional space.

"It was a great day," Wettergren said of the cornerstone laying. "We needed the new school so badly."

The contents of the box will be unveiled at an open house meant to gauge St. Peter residents reactions to potential new community center design.

The ceremonies on Monday simply can't compare in grandeur to the ceremonies of August 1926.

A Herald news clipping from July 30, 1926 invited the public to the ceremony. It also detailed the importance of the new school to area residents.

"This (the box) will be filled with records of the greatest civic improvement site the city has ever known, newspaper and other interesting data."

About 500 area residents attended the dedication, the Herald reported on August 6, 1926.

The American flag rose and the band played. Doctor G. Edward Larson served as the master of ceremonies, and Judge Henry N. Benson spoke on the future of education in St. Peter.

The Herald quoted Benson as saying, "Tonight, we pay tribute to those of the 70s and 80s and later who have built well of our schools. We say we will emulate their example, and erect buildings comparable to our children's needs."

A list of documents to be placed in the copper box was read.

The Herald reported, " … And for the purpose of retaining a record of the building and the facts accompanying its construction, a receptacle has been provided in which will be deposited the names of the superintendent, board members and officers, contractors, and others having charge of the erection, the cost, specifications and bonding data, and copies of the St. Peter Herald …"

The crowd joined in to sing "My Country 'tis of Thee," and Judge Henry Moll, a 66-year resident of St. Peter spoke.

The program closed to "Star Spangled Banner," and the band rushed to Gorman Park to perform its weekly concert.

Wettergren joked that he was surprised the concert happened at all.

"I wonder how they got by because they had some long-winded speakers," he quipped.

Later news clippings tell of the 67 railroad cars that brought supplies for constructing the building into town.

Long before Hawbaker dug out the cornerstone, construction workers who originally built the high school made their wn discovery.

While excavating for the high school addition, the workers found the handles to a child's coffin.

The burial was thought to have been made in St. Peter's early days, when it was not unusual for families to bury their elatives in spacious yards, especially during plagues.

t. Peter Hopes To Solve Mystery Of 1926 Cornerstone

y: Jody Sailor, Free Press

If you're older than 72 and remember St. Peter's old Central High School, the city may be looking for you – especially if ou have a good memory.

City officials are asking help in determining just what's in the 1926 cornerstone salvaged from the high school building, hich is most recently known as Central Community Center.

The Kasota Stone cube is solid on all sides but one. It's plugged with a red brick and mortar as well as another smaller ortar plug, suggesting that something may be inside.

And weighing in at about 700 pounds, it's too big to shake. St. Peter Public Works employees keep it on a wheeled cart nd move it only when they have to with the help of a fork lift.

"If anyone has any idea about what if anything would be in the cornerstone, we'd love to hear from you," City dministrator Todd Prafke said. "It's interesting."

Prafke and other city officials are anxious to open the block, but they want to wait to do it in a public setting. The uilding, after all, is a rich part of the community's history.

If there is something inside, they'd like to give it its ceremonial due. If there's not, well, they don't want to look foolish.

Visions of talk show host Geraldo Rivera opening gangster Al Capone's bank vault some 10 years ago with great fanfare and little inside – dance in Prafke's head.

"I don't want that to happen," he said. "I don't want to invite a million people down and have nothing there."

Right now, the plans call to open the cornerstone in two weeks at an open house displaying plans for the city's new ommunity center. The event will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, November 30, at the American Legion.

In the meantime, demolition of the Central Community Center and the neighboring Arts and Heritage Center is expected begin next week. March tornadoes caused both buildings to crumble.

St. Peter native Bob Wettergren, 77, remembers the warm August day that the cornerstone was laid on the northwest rner of the building. He attended the ceremonies with his mother, who was a former teacher, and his brothers.

News clippings of the day describe "unprecedented growth" at the high school, which started out in the Arts and eritage Center as Central High School. That building became the Central Annex building after the first part of Central High hool was built next door in 1907.

The cornerstone was in a 1926 addition to that school.

"It was a big deal," Wettergren said. "The school was badly needed."

Wettergren, who would start school himself a month later, said he still recalls quite a bit from the day. He especially remembers seeing his family physician, Dr. F. P. Strathern, then chairman of the St. Peter School Board, at the event.

But he's not so sure about the cornerstone's contents, although he guesses they could include newspapers, a reader or a dictionary.

"I, unfortunately, can't tell you what's in the cornerstone," he said. "It's a mystery to me."

Seventy-two years of the elements and a major twister could have damaged anything in the cornerstone.

Elements were a factor when officials from the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center opened the cornerstone from their Center Building during a 130th anniversary celebration in September 1996. The seal wasn't airtight; as a result, its contents disintegrated. The remains are on display at the treatment center's museum.

Also in St. Peter, members of the Church of the Holy Communion are making plans to open their 1869 cornerstone in commemoration of the church's 130th anniversary next year. Church records reveal nothing of the contents.

Jessica Potter, curator and archivist with the Nicollet County Historical Society, said cornerstones weren't uncommon then and aren't uncommon today. A modern day cornerstone would include a CD, newspapers and even pictures – anything that may be novel when it's opened later, she said.

"Basically, it's a time capsule," Potter said.

Potter is especially interested in the school cornerstone's contents because she's putting together an exhibit on "Nicollet County School Days," which will include Central High School. The exhibit opens at the Nicollet County Interpretive Center November 19 and is expected to run through May.

"They may open it and nothing will be in there," she said. "But they may open it and there will be treasures in there."

Anyone with information about the cornerstone's possible contents are asked to call City Administrator Todd Prafke at 931 – 4840.

Bloomquist, A Man Of Honor And Service ✍

The passing of Ross Bloomquist a few weeks ago left a void in the community that will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill. He was an excellent liaison person between Gustavus Adolphus College, Chamber of Commerce and the City of St. Peter.

When E. C. Sjostrad passed away, Ross became treasurer and business manager of the college. When Ross retired in 1988, he had risen to the position of vice president of business affairs at Gustavus.

While a student in the Navy V12 program in 1944, Ross was on the Gustavus Adolphus College track team. He had the distinction of defeating the University of Minnesota's best in the dashes.

There was no doubt that Ross was a great link between the college, city and chamber. I remember when I was president of the chamber from 1958-60 and Ross was on the Chamber board. He also served 15 years on the Chamber board when I was manager.

When Ross was president of the Chamber, he would say, "Run the chamber as you did your own business and we will be satisfied."

When the Chamber honored the late Russ Lund and his wife, Rhoda, for their contributions to Lund Arena, I requested that Ross be responsible for all the arrangements at the college.

We needed two parking spaces for Charlie Boone and Roger Erickson, as they came in separate cars. Two big signs were posted in the back of the cafeteria, "reserved for Boone & Erickson." Two podiums, two microphones and all the other details under his auspices were taken care of to make the evening a success.

I remember at times when problems arose among the college, chamber and city; it was always Ross who was the go-between person.

Ross, a great family man and community leader, was instrumental in the building of First Lutheran Church. Many old timers were opposed to the proposed new site, but Ross and others convinced them otherwise.

When Ross was chairman of the First National Bank Board, he was on the building committee for the new bank, and was involved in the selection of the bank's past four presidents.

Ross not only served the college, city and chamber with valor, but also served his country as a naval officer. I know of no other couple who volunteered their services to the community as much as Lavinia and Ross Bloomquist – their word was their bond.

One can rest assured that Ross has a lot to say about the tornado to his neighbors and colleagues, Kyle Montague and Doniver Lund, when he rejoined them in that house not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens.

Ross will be missed, but not forgotten.

Letter To The Editor: ✍

Longtime St. Peter Citizens Honored

To the editor:

Bob Wettergren's article in the December issue of the Herald eloquently expressed the opinion of all citizens who knew Ross Bloomquist. However, it also brought to mind the fact that too often we fail to express our gratitude and appreciation to our friends and acquaintances while they are still with us. They cannot hear a post-mortem acclamation.

Two citizens of St. Peter who deserve the open gratitude and appreciation of all who reside in St. Peter are none other than Robert "Bob" and Renee Wettergren. Bob is the historian of our city with his written articles and radio and TV interviews.

He is the political and social commentator of our city. Many times he is a philosopher or a humorist, and always a promoter of our city. What other city has a citizen like Bob, who has many of the same qualities as Edward R. Murrow, Cedric Adams, Sid Hartman, and Garrison Keillor. He could not be what he is without the support and assistance of his charming wife, Renee.

I would like to suggest to our city fathers that they declare a Bob and Renee Wettergren Appreciation Day to thank them for their long service to our community. I am sure there are others among us in the community who deserve recognition and thanks, too. Perhaps it is time for the city council to set aside a Citizen Appreciation Day each year.

If any event, if you agree with my nomination or with the concept of a Citizen Appreciation Day, contact your city council representative and let's get the day set aside.

W. M. Gustafson

Memories Of Schuck's Oshawa Township Store

Eight miles west of St. Peter on Highway 99, in the hamlet of Oshawa Township, one will find a building once known as Schuck's North Star store. Art Schuck was born in a room above the store. The store, built by Henry Meyer near the Oshawa Elevator, was moved to its present location when the North Star Creamery adjacent to the elevator burned down. The store and creamery were moved to the present location, across the road from the school, because most of the farmers lived south of the North Star School District.

Oshawa, according to Florence Turner Peterson, is an Indian name meaning, "Ferry him across or over the water."

The store, built in 1989, was moved to its present location by owner George Linstrom, who purchased the business from Henry Meyer. In 1908, Linstrom sold the business to Jacob and Josephine Schuck. In 1946, upon the death of Jacob, Art assisted his mother in operating the store. In 1965, Art became sole owner of the business and the building. Art remembers that on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays when the school children got rides to school, the farmers would bring in their cream to the creamery. Those were the days when the Schucks had a booming business.

The school closed in the early 1950s and the creamery in 1956.

North Star School District 23 meant a lot to me as my mother, Edna Pell Wettergren, taught there for two years before going to New Sweden where she, like baseball players of today, became a free agent and received higher wages.

Art remembers that on Sunday nights the men would play euchre in the store and the women would play 500 in Schuck's kitchen. Jacob Schuck never sold beer in the store, as he didn't believe cards and beer were compatible. It was only after the card playing that he would sell beer.

Mike Bresnahan and Russell Boys recall when my mother was asked if she played cards. She acknowledged that she played a few times, but it wasn't her strong suit. They said that Edna, the schoolteacher from Traverse, usually walked away with the head prize.

Many times mother mentioned what honest, Christian people the Schucks and Art's grandmother, Celine Nattier, were.

Ardella Westphal Mines (the late John's wife) reminded me that her mother, Elizabeth, would assist Art's mother at the till on busy days.

Believe it or not, pop, candy bars and gum sold for 5 cents in the early days. Gasoline was $ 1 for five gallons. The Schucks sold Skelly gasoline, which they purchased from three generations of Eppers – Henry, Anthony and Charles. Those were the days of the hand gas pumps.

Old timers still tell the story of a city slicker from New York who went into the store and asked Art for change for counterfeit $ 18 bill. Art looked up and said, "How do you want it, three sixes or two nines?"

In 1939, the Oshawa baseball team made news when this country team, that played in Frank Swenson's pasture, went all the way to the state semifinals in Shakopee. Art says all the players on the team have passed away. They were: Ralph and Bob Juberian, Bob and Ralph Boys, Les and Everett Malmberg, Herb Michaels, "Butts" Yost, Cy McCabe, Ken Burg, and mascot, Jim Kennedy.

In 1986, Art had an auction where he sold everything except a few cloth overshoes that he couldn't sell for a decent price.

Art, a devout Roman Catholic who takes his faith seriously, is still active in the Knights of Columbus and is involved in many of the Knights projects.

Art still plants an acre of potatoes, squash, beets and carrots to supplement his income at Hardee's, where he has worked from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the past 13 years.

When he walks through the door at Hardee's, the coffee boys know that there is only one Art Schuck, and if all people were as good and honest as he is, there wouldn't be the need for any correctional institutions.

Former St. Peter residents, Clayton and Cora Wolfe, of Aitken, Minnesota wrote to say that Cora had visited St. Peter last April and was saddened by the destruction caused by the tornado.

Cora, who left St. Peter in 1955, said she had a nice visit with Mert Kirby after the services at Union Presbyterian Church. She also said that she's proud of the town and looks forward to her high school 45th class reunion July 2 – 4. She and Lolly Thomas Mann are planning the event.

Dairies Dominated Town In 1930's ✍

by Jody Sailor - Free Press

Back then, the milkman knew what you needed for dairy products and placed it in your icebox while you were still sleeping. Those were the days that spanned into the years from 1925 to 1950, when Nicollet County laid claim to 13 creameries. Those were the days of "Cow Street".

That's what Front Street in St. Peter was called, but not because of the dairies along it. The street was dubbed so because of the local people from along the south end of town and along the Minnesota River who would herd their cows north on Cow Street to a 25-acre pasture where Veterans Park is today. Daily those cows would go past the St. Peter Creamery, the Wettergren and Sons Dairy, and the Borsch Dairy as they made their way to Madison Street and over Minnesota Avenue.

The St. Peter Creamery

Soren Smidt bought the St. Peter Creamery in 1930. A report of the day touts the creamery as dispensing 5,000 butterfat checks a month. "All going out to the local farming community to help fight off the threat of low grain prices and the justifiable fear that there is going to be a long, long, road to the Tipperary of farm relief," it said. Smidt produced the "Minnesota Valley" brand of butter – complete with a logo depicting a typical hut of early country settlers, a stockade and early Indians.

Stan Davis bought the St. Peter Creamery from him during World War II, changing its focus from purchasing cream to separating whole milk and later drying milk into powder. The business grew into the international Davisco Co. now in Le Sueur.

Wettergren Dairy

Wettergren and Sons Dairy was started by Clarence A. Wettergren in Traverse in 1930. On his first day of business, Wettergren bottled 36 quarts of milk, selling half door-to-door.

The second day, however, he managed to sell the remaining 18 quarts, along with another 66 quarts. As the business grew, the dairy moved to Front Street in 1935. Among its customers were the local stores, schools, hospitals and Gustavus Adolphus College.

Bill, Bud and Bob Wettergren 1933

Wettergren's sons, Bill, Bud and Bob, would deliver milk before they went to school each day. "We started early in the morning and would have half a day's work in before we even went to school," recalls Bob Wettergren, 77, of St. Peter. "That's why we'd fall asleep.".

Over the years, several smaller dairies – including the small Borsch Dairy, St. Peter Milk Co., Mortensen Dairy, Skoog Dairy and the Walter Olson Dairy – were sold to the Wettergrens. When Wettergren Dairy was sold to Cloverleaf Dairy of Minneapolis in 1973, its customers numbered more than 500.

Other Dairies

The Model Dairy opened a $25,000 plant on Third and Nassau streets in 1930, an extension of the Model Dairy already operating in Mankato. They dairy didn't offer home delivery, but locals could purchase milk and butter at the creamery. It employed 30 people in 1930, processing 750,000 pounds of butter and 100 gallons of ice cream daily.

In North Mankato, Earl and Marie Smith and Merrill and Miraiam Claridge opened Purity Dairies on Nicollet Avenue in 1927. The 15 employee dairy processed milk, butter and cottage cheese.

In 1936, Claridge created Marigold Dairies. Soon after he built a $60,000 plant on Belgrade Avenue and Ball Street and employed 25 people with an annual payroll of $ 29,000. The employees included four office and eight plant workers and 13 salesmen-drivers. The dairy was one of the largest employers in North Mankato form 1940 to 1965, employing up to 80 employees. Among Marigold's products were milk, cream, butter, Dario orangeade, cottage cheese, ice cream, sherbets, chocolate milk and frozen strawberries.

A headline on a 1937 news report declared "Dairy workers wear mittens even in July."

"Inside the hardening room, hoar frost hangs white and thick around the more than one-half mile of one and one-half inch pipe, which coils beneath the ceiling and around the walls of the room. The icy cold congeals the breath and sends shivers through anyone not dressed for a wintry atmosphere."

Gentleman Johnson Will Be Missed

With his passing three weeks ago, Clarence H. Johnson left a long lasting impression on the St. Peter community. Over the years, I know of no one who was respected more than Clarence Johnson. He was a true gentleman.

Johnson was not only a good family man, but to those people who were associated with him at work, on the golf course, at church or the lodge regarded him as one from the old school – when your word and handshake were your bond.

After 49 years of making the Babcock Stone Company known throughout the United States and some foreign countries as well, Johnson, who worked under three generations of Babcocks, retired as vice president.

Johnson's judgment was respected by all who knew him. He has this fantastic ability to remember names and places. He was ritualistic in his church duties at Trinity Lutheran Church or at the Masonic Lodge, where he was a member for 68 years. In addition, he won many awards in the Masonic Lodge and was also involved with the Zuhrah Shriner's philanthropic endeavors.

His love of golf led him to be one of the people who helped make the Shoreland Country Club what it is today. He was one of the first to offer his services to work nights and was involved in planning the future of the club. Besides serving a term as president, he was sought out by other clubs for advice and ended up designing the Madelia Country Club.

I remember sitting with Clarence at a baseball game in Le Center back in the 1950's. When a fan from that community, after a few beers, started harassing one of the St. Peter players to no end, Clarence, being a mild mannered person, finally turned to the fan and asked him if he know the player whom he was bad mouthing. The fan admitted he had never met the player, Clarence then remarked, "The individual plays hard to win but he is a gentleman of the highest degree." Clarence then offered to introduce him after the game. The fan remained quiet the rest of the game.

Because of his interest in education, Clarence served on the school board at Kasota and later in St. Peter. He had a lot to do with the merging of the two school districts, which ended up being the best for both communities.

He will be missed, but not forgotten.

Boulevard Inn

In June 1946, Lyle Albrecht, the son of a St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran minister, returned from a four-year stint in the U.S. armed forces.

He decided that he and his wife, Alta, could serve the public by opening a drive-in at the same spot that Dan Melvin's Texaco station is now located. The name of the drive-in was to be the "Boulevard Inn" because Minnesota Avenue was divided by a boulevard beginning at Ramsey and continuing four blocks south.

At the entrance of the boulevard was a famous sign that swept the country by storm; it said "Welcome to St. Peter, Home of Five Governors," established in 1853. To the left of the St. Peter sign was another sign that read, "St. Peter has Natural Gas."

Lyle and Alta after leasing the land for the drive-in from Rass and Marie Pederson, invited Byron "Lefty" Lutz, his baseball battery mate for the town baseball team, and "Lefty's" wife, Vera "Pete" Lutz, to join them in the operation.

Lutz had just returned from four years in the Navy having served in the Pacific. "Pete" and Alta remember some of the prices as follows: root beer, 5 cents a mug; root beer floats, 15 cents; hot dogs, 15 cents; hot beef sandwiches, 25 cents; ice cream cones, 5 cents.

In those days, a muffin tin and cigar box where used as a till. Keep in mind that these were the days long before computers were invented.

Some of the first car hops at the Boulevard Inn were Jackie Fifield Elliott; her sister Bev Fifield; Marie Daun; Pat Thompson; Bev Martens Aanonsen; and several other high school students.

Lyle remembers suppliers such as Leverson Meats, Wettergren Dairy, Marigold Dairy (ice cream), Koehler's (soft mix), Casper's Bakery and Rich-O (root beer, lemon-lime and orange drinks.)

The customer that the car hops enjoyed serving was none other than Hubert H. Humphrey, who was mayor of Minneapolis at the time, and later became U.S. Senator and vice president.

Daily customers were the Dutch and Betty Reimer's children who lived a block away.

The first Boulevard Inn was built by "Lefty," his father-in-law, Soren Smidt and Lyle.

In 1948, the Albrechts and Lutzes expanded their operation by opening a drive-in in Glencoe called the "Circle Inn," with the late Armand Vernon of Kasota as the builder.

In 1949, Lyle and Alta took over the Glencoe operation, and Lefty and Pete took over the St. Peter operation. The Albrechts sold their Glencoe operation in 1950, and the Lutzes moved to where Dave Bell currently owns and operates a Dairy Queen franchise.

Lyle, who worked days for the Hermel Candy and Tobacco Co., took a job with the Minnesota Valley Natural Gas Co. in 1950, where he worked for 34 years. He retired as suburban division manager and southern division manager in 1982. He and Alta; his sisters Veronica and Teddy; and Teddy's husband Cliff Kurseth, now spend their winters in Sun City, Arizona.

Lutz, now deceased, was not only one of the great all-time pitchers for Gustavus Adolphus College, but an excellent student as well. He was employed with the U.S. Postal Department for over 30 years.

"Pete," who is now a widow, has spent the past nine months restoring her house on Skaro, and adjusting to the ravages of the March 29 tornado.

The Beat Of A Different Drummer

A few months ago Cliff Hermel, a well-known drummer, celebrated his 81st birthday. When he was 9 years old, Cliff started taking drum lessons, from John Fitzloff of St. Clair, who was employed at the Owen Music Store. Because they saw the music potential in Cliff, the Hermels skimped and saved in order to pay the $ 1.25 required for each lesson.

Cliff played in the first Nicollet High School band in 1931, under the direction of music director Earl J. Erickson, and continued until his graduation in 1934. Incidentally, Earl directed the high school bands in Le Sueur and St. Peter before his retirement.

At the tender age of nine in 1927, Cliff got his first job as a drummer. This was because John Fritche, the father of "Fezz," was in desperate need of a drummer to play at a barn dance. His pay was fifty cents, a sandwich and a bottle of pop for playing from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Since his father Adolph, owned and operated the Swan Lake pavilion, a mile north of Nicollet, it was only natural that Cliff was exposed to music. Adolph started the pavilion in 1919 and operated the dance hall until the 1930's. At that time, he closed the hall and used the lumber to build a house on north Minnesota Avenue in St. Peter.

Not one to remain idle, he used the basement to start a very successful business, known as the A. H. Hermel Candy and Tobacco Company.

Upon Adolph's death, the business was sold to Cliff and his brother, Howard. Today, Howard and Myra Hermel's son, David, is the owner and CEO of the business.

When Adolph operated the Swan Lake pavilion, he booked Lawrence Welk, who had just started his band. Believe it or not, Welk went broke three different times and Adolph was the one who always gave him another chance. Finally, Adolph told Lawrence to stick to farming, as he would never make it as a band leader. When Lawrence went to his champagne music, he was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. The rest is history. Several years ago, Lawrence Welk played to a full house at Metropolitan Stadium, he spotted Adolph and immediately embraced him.

In 1944, Cliff started his own band with Guy Flanigan, (trumpter), Henie Udelhofen, (trombone), Rick Larson, (piano), and, of course, Cliff on the drums. Cliff and his band members over the course of 55 years, traveled over four million miles; and the only mishap was a flat tire coming back from a booking. He said, many times he would go 95 mph in order to be on time.

In 1936 Cliff joined the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps with Francis "Mutsy" Veith as drum major. The drum corps had its beginning in St. Peter in 1927, with a well-known St. Peterite, Connie Gustafson, as the drum major. Connie (Bill's uncle) was a star athlete at Gustavus. Later, he was a teacher and coach at St. Peter High School where he had one of St. Peter's great football teams in 1929.

Incidentally Curt Leverson and son Gene were both drum majors before and after World War II.

For many years the St. Peter Band played every Wednesday at Gorman Park. I remember Herman Holz, Karl Klein, Bob Faust, and Cliff Mollert also as drummers over the years. After World War II, Hermel and his wife, Katie, started the Black Knights, ages 8 – 13, the Crusaders, ages 13 – 21, and of course the famous Govenaires, ages 21 and older. The Hermels incorporated the drum corps with Cliff as president. Cliff and Katie purchased the instruments for the Knights and Crusaders.

Cliff and Katie own the Gibbon Ballroom, where they have the largest maple wood dance floor in the country. The Hermels purchased the Gibbon Ballroom from Jerry Lynch 38 years ago. Many people remember when Jerry operated the Crystal Ballroom south of St. Peter, near Kasota, until the building was mysteriously destroyed by fire.

The Hermels will sponsor a free appreciation dance on July 25 for their customer patronage over the past 38 years.

Cliff closed our conversation with these words, "I don't have anything to prove anymore."

No question, Cliff and his band will be missed at the Independence Day picnic and parade.

Saturday Was Shopping Day

by Peter Passi, Free Press Staff Writer

Each Saturday, Minnesota Avenue would fill with activity as families poured into St. Peter to purchase their weekly provisions.

"Saturday was the big shopping day," said Bob Wettergren, 77, a lifelong resident of St. Peter and a local history buff.

Many of the customers from neighboring farms bought what they needed without a dime of money. Wettergren said many grocers bartered with farmers, accepting produce in exchange for other goods.

Probably the hottest retail space in St. Peter around the turn of the century was in a brick building Dr. A.W. Daniels constructed in 1899, Wettergren said.

It housed three street-level storefronts, and Daniels rented out the upper level to the Masons.

Daniels was a widely renowned doctor, Wettergren said. "In his day, he was more famous than the Mayos."

The Mayo brothers, who later found the Mayo Clinic, owned land north of town, near Le Sueur.

Besides being one of the newer structures in town, the Daniels' building also had location working in its favor.

"The 300 block has always been the premier block in town," Wettergren said.

The block was home to the Baberich Dry Goods Store, the Philip Dick clothing store and the Adolphson shoe store.

In the 1920's, Pete Schuveiller bought out the Baberichs and expanded the inventory.

"My grandmother bought everything from Pete Schuveiller," Wettergren recalled. "He would put down a stool for her, and she'd spend all afternoon in his store."

Schuveiller struck up friendships with his regular customers and didn't always concern himself strictly with business.

Wettergren said, Schuveiller sometimes invited male customers into the back of the store.

"Pete liked to drink, and he kept a jug back there."

Although the 18th amendment to the Constitution passed in 1919, outlawing the consumption of alcohol, St. Peter was hardly a dry town during the years that it remained in effect.

"Nobody ever went thirsty around here," Wettergren said.

St. Peter's brewery, Engesser, had been reduced to producing non-alcoholic near-beer, but its product often was augmented locally with grain alcohol. St. Peter had been home to 17 saloons, and while these establishments no longer could openly serve alcohol, Wettergren said patrons could usually arranged to have their beverages spiked.

Sheriff's Department History

The history of the Nicollet County sheriffs goes back to 1853, five years before Minnesota became a state.

Governor Willis A. Gorman appointed William Heuey to sheriff on April 7, 1853. In October of the same year, G. S. Patch was the first elected sheriff of Nicollet County.

The jail was a cement basement with a wooden structure over the top for living quarters. When the county seat was moved to St. Peter from Traverse des Sioux, a new jail was built in 1859. This was a wooden structure at a cost of $ 2,000. L.M. Boardman of St. Peter was elected sheriff, according to the history of the Minnesota Valley by the Rev. Edward Neill. Neill wrote that the building was destroyed when three men escaped by setting fire to the building.

In 1874, a committee was appointed to build a new jail at the corner of Broadway and Washington where the first community hospital was built in 1939. This is where the offices are now located for the Community Hospital/Health Care operation. The proposed cost of the new jail was $ 5,000, but with steel bars for the jail cells, the total expenditure was $ 14,000.

Incidentally, the Kasota two-foot thick stone from the old jail was used for a bandstand in Minnesota Square Park. When that didn't work out because of the noise, Alderman Dr. Lloyd Hollingsworth drew up plans for a pavilion, which the common council of St. Peter accepted.

A new jail was built just south of the court house in 1907 at a cost of $ 40,000. In 1983, an addition was built for 2.1 million. Jim Kollman, the present sheriff, is proud of the fact that the jail building is now debt free. The present capacity of the jail facilities has room for 34 people.

After Heuey, Patch and Boardman, the following became sheriff: James Lamb, R.M. Tomlinson, A.A. Stone, Andrew Filler, E.J. Boys, Thomas Downs, Henry Moll, Ben Rogers, J.H. Block, John McMillen, August Olson, Charles Norman, John A. Johnson, Clifford "Tip" Witty, George "Tip" Witty, Richard "Buz" Witty and presently Kollmann.

Until 1982, it was a forgone conclusion that the sheriff live with his family in separate quarters in the jail. Marilyn Witty, George's wife remembers cooking for the prisoners from 1968 until 1984, including two years after they moved to their home in Governors Heights. Since Marilyn's departure, the meals have been under contract.

Kollmann with 31 years service, now heads up a staff of 25 people. Stu Hanson is next with 27, Brian Wieland with 25, Mark Lynch with 24, Don Wersal with 17, Marilyn Anderson, Deanna Dunphy, Cindy Block, Kip Olson, and Cheryl Deboer all have 15 years of service. The rest of the staff includes: Tony Adams, Karl Jensen, Dave Nielsen, Marc Chadderdon, Laura Davis, Mike O'Gorman, Joel Polzin, Kevin Stolt, Barb Theis, Julie Von Essen, Susan Cox, Phil Wills, Adam Block, Jeff Wersal, Joey Olson and Staci Nelson.

Kollman has a back up of seven reserves and a 15 member horse posse.

The Nicollet County Sheriffs department along with the St. Peter Police Department, under the auspices of Chief Matt Peters, and the Minnesota Highway Patrol as I would say, "have the bases well covered."

The History Of Nicollet County Courthouse

On March 5, 1853, the territorial Legislature of Minnesota created the County of Nicollet as a separate organization. At the time it was only logical that the seat for the County be located at the village of Traverse des Sioux, where the Treaty of 1851 was signed.

The County was named after Jean N. Nicollet, a French explorer who mapped out the County during the territorial days.

On April 7, 1853, Governor Alexander Ramsey appointed officers for the newly formed county at Traverse des Sioux: George H. Spencer, register of deeds; Jonas Pettijohn, treasurer; and William Huey, sheriff. The board of county commissioners was D.R. Kennedy, Andrew J. Myrick and Jonas Pettijohn.

The first county board of commissioners met June 27, 1853, in a room at the Spencer home. Spencer was paid $1 for use of the room.

On October 11, 1853, these officials were elected to the following offices: D.R. Kennedy, Bruce Pierce, and the Rev. M.N. Adams, commissioners; Gibson S. Patch, sheriff; Andrew Myrick, register of deeds; Jonas Pettijohn, treasurer; Francis L. Labath, coroner; William Huey and Hiram Caywood, justices of the peace; Stewart Garvie and Peter Teed, constables; J.P. Holtslaw, G. Addison Brown and Joseph La Framboise, assessors; J.D. Hemingway, judge of probate; J.D. Marklund, district attorney; Israel Fuller, county surveyor; and Joseph Robinette, supervisor of roads.

In 1858, a vote of the eligible voters was taken to move the County seat to St. Peter. The vote was 457 for and 301 against the moving of the seat.

The Convention Hall, built by the St. Peter Company as a temporary Capitol building, was 40' x 60', two stories and cost $5,000. It was later given to the County as a courthouse.

Nicollet County Courthouse and Jail

When the County built a new $32,000 courthouse in 1881, the Convention Hall was taken over by the City of St. Peter as a city hall until 1886 when the structure burned to the ground.

In 1967, the County Commissioners voted to replace the badly worn and dangerous steps on the front of the courthouse with a newly constructed entrance. Both the entrance and the tower were subsequently destroyed or damaged during the tornado on March 29, 1998.

Since then, the entrance has been rebuilt to its original image; the reconstruction of the tower will be completed in 2000.

In 1977, a $913,512.20 addition was built on the east side of the courthouse to accommodate additional officers, and extra parking space for the evergrowing county government.

An additional $70,000 was needed for furnishings, plus approximately $200,000 for renovating and refurbishing the 1881 building. Many of the programs were mandated by the state and federal governments.

A new $5.9 million addition is now under construction with the project to be completed by 2002.

Six years ago, satellite offices were established to accommodate the people in the fast-growing North Mankato area. Offices in the North Mankato building include: court administrator, public health, and nursing, court services, social services, and veterans services.

Since the tornado, several offices have been temporarily located to the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center. In addition, the Department of Social Services is located in the Nicollet Plaza Building (part of the former Johnson Factory building).

Current county commissioners are: Clete Schroepher, James Stenson, LaVonne Craig, Judy Hanson and Jack Kolars. The current county officers are: Robert Bruns, auditor; Myrna Schoeb, treasurer; Kathryn Conlon, recorder; James Kollmann, sheriff; Michael Riley, attorney; and Warren Litynski, judge of probate.

In 1946, when entering the courthouse on business with attorney and later judge, Henry N. Benson, Jr., I asked him what the word LEX, which was carved above the entrance meant. His reply was that in Latin it meant "Law".

Can you imagine how many people have passed through the portals of the courthouse since?

Timeline Of Significant Events In St. Peter History

Tragedies, calamities and disasters from 1853 to 2000

1851	Treaty of the Traverse des Sioux. Non-payments by the U.S. Government lead to the Native American conflict in 1862.
1853	Captain William B. Dodd and his wife, Harriet, found St. Peter. He loses his life in 1862 in the Native American conflict while trying to save the City of New Ulm.
1873	Major snowstorm.
1875-76	Grasshopper infestation.
1880	Fire strikes the Minnesota State Hospital (St. Peter Regional Treatment Center).
1881	Flood.
1881	Cyclone hits the city, taking out a part of the downtown area near Gorman Park.
1887	Fire strikes downtown St. Peter in Minnesota Avenue's 200 block east. Blazes also burn the First Lutheran Church.
1909	Gov. John A. Johnson dies. Johnson was St. Peter's fifth governor to serve the state, as well as the first Minnesota-born governor, and the first governor to occupy the present State Capitol building.
1924	Tornado.
1929	Fire strikes Methodist Church.
1929-30	Dust storms
1929-33	The Depression reaches home. At Christmastime in 1933, Ritt's Store didn't have a single customer during one day in the month of December.
1936	Sixteen inmates escape from the Minnesota Security Hospital.
1940	Fire strikes Engesser Brewery.
1962	2nd First Lutheran Church destroyed by fire.
1940	Armistice Day Snowstorm.
1965	Flood.
1969	Flood.
1971	Fire strikes Gustavus Adolphus College Auditorium.
1975	Major snowstorm.
1976	Scandia Grove Lutheran Church, Norseland destroyed by fire.
1993	Flood.
1998	Tornadoes rip through St. Peter, leaving 759 homes destroyed or badly damaged. Gustavus Adolphus College sustains $60 million in damage.

P.S. Despite all of the above happenings, I hope the "bases are covered" and you will find "A Bit of Heaven in St. Peter."

APOLOGY

I wish at this time to make a humble apology for whatever important matters I have missed in this book. As Alexander Pope, the great English poet, once said, "to err is human, but to forgive is divine".

Robert W. Wettergren has lived in St. Peter for all of his 78 years. Because of his numerous activities and obvious love of the community – not to mention his vast knowledge of St. Peter's history – he's know around town as "Mr. St. Peter".

Bob attended Gustavus Adolphus College. He indulged his love of baseball by playing on the Traverse and St. Peter amateur teams for eight years and later on the semi-professional Mankato Merchants team for three years, and one year on the St. James team. His family ran the Wettergren Dairy, which he and his wife, Renee, also owned before be became executive vice president of the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce, a position he held for 20 years.

Over the years, Bob has been involved in nearly every local organization including the Masonic and Red Men Lodges, the Lions Club, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion and the Nicollet County Historical Society. He also has served on the City Council, the St. Patrick's Day Committee and other city committees.

Bob has received numerous awards and recognitions over the years including: Who's Who in Minnesota in 1956, Outstanding Male Citizen for Nicollet County in 1995 and the Roger J. Wolfe Region IX Award in 1999.

He has hosted numerous "Farming & Business" radio shows and "Know Your Community" programs on the local cable access channel. He's also written "Business and Industry" and "Down Memory Lane" columns for the St. Peter Herald for 26 years.

Bob and his wife, Renee, have been married for 53 years, during which they raised four daughters and a son. It's not uncommon to hear Bob say, you find "a little bit of heaven in St. Peter". From all accounts, it seems he has.